

Hafa Adai!

Apatang: Listen to the people. **PAGE 5**

PSS submits \$54M budget proposal for FY 2022. **PAGE 7**

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IPI parent company claims \$350M in unutilized credit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Hong Kong-based mother company of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has disclosed that for the year ending Dec. 31, 2020, the company has an unutilized credit facility of \$350 million from an independent

» **Taitano, Dela Cruz ask why IPI not using money to settle many obligations**

third party.

According to Imperial Pacific International Holdings Limited's annual results

filed before the Hong Kong Exchange and Clearing Limited and the Stock Exchange for Hong Kong Limited last

See IPI on **Page 4**

CCC stops issuance of junket licenses

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission board has issued an order prohibiting the issuance of new or renewal licenses for junket operations at the Imperial Pacific Interna-

See CCC on **Page 4**

Lightning hit trips power supply

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A transformer fronting the Paradise Hotel in Garapan was hit by a lightning bolt yesterday at 12:09pm, causing a power outage for majority of Saipan.

According to an announcement on the Commonwealth

Utilities Corp.'s Facebook page, a transformer in front of

See POWER on **Page 4**

A 'traditional' graduation with limitations?

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's

administration is attempting to work with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force to come up with a plan for a

more traditional graduation with limitations for the up-

See **GRADUATION** on **Page 4**

SAIPAN'S LARGEST ENSEMBLE

Over a hundred musicians from different schools of varying age ranges and grades performed at the Saipan Wind Band Festival last Sunday, April 25, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall. The event had no live audience in compliance with COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Story on **Page 4**



COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, April 26, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	18,781
Fully Vaccinated:	15,367
Moderna	
Initiated:	2,894
Fully Vaccinated:	2,236
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	49

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,911	12	7,923
Recovered	7,712	10	7,722
Active	53	12	65
Deaths	136	0	136
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			151,802

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	164	0	164
Traced via Travel Screening	128	0	128
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			40

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE



LOCAL

A U.S. Army medical team has begun administering COVID-19 vaccine doses in Guam.

PAGE 2



BUSINESS

AE Ice Cream Rolls is back at Sugar King Park just in time for Saipan's hot summer.

PAGE 11



LIFE & STYLE

Chloé Zhao's "Nomadland" wins best picture Sunday at the 93rd Academy Awards.

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TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

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Local

US Army medical team administers COVID-19 vaccines in Guam

U.S. NAVY/MCS2 MACADAM KANE WEISSMAN

Pfc. Ethan Van Veldhuizen, a combat medic specialist assigned to 25th Infantry Division, administers a COVID-19 vaccine in support of the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services COVID-19 vaccination team at a vaccination clinic held at the University of Guam Calvo Field House.

MANGILAO, Guam—A team of U.S. Army medical professionals began administering COVID-19 vaccine doses to members of the local community last April 16.

The team consists of a medical officer and combat medic specialists assigned to the 25th Infantry Division at U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii. As part of a scheduled 30-day mission assignment, the soldiers are bolstering Department of Public Health and Social Services vaccination teams in their campaign to immunize 50% of Guam's adult population by May 1, 2021.

Following the medical team's arrival, the soldiers joined DPHSS staff to review local procedures and prepare to administer COVID-19 vaccine doses to community members.

"I couldn't be more proud of my team and what we have accomplished," said 2nd Lt. Shelby Lynch, officer in charge of the medical team. "It was clear that we could make a real difference here and all of us are excited to be a part of that. It is an honor to work with the local staff and community."

Lynch and her team integrated with Guam National Guard and DPHSS medical professionals to administer thousands of vaccines at the University of Guam Calvo Field House each day. In their first three days of vaccinations, the soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division adminis-

tered over 2,600 vaccines to the local community.

"I have nothing but respect and admiration for what these soldiers have done and continue to do," said Rear Adm. John Menoni, commander, Joint Region Marianas. "They showed up and instantly pitched into the fight against COVID-19, directly contributing to Guam's push toward its 50% and 80% immunization benchmarks."

DPHSS and the Guam National Guard began vaccinations at UOG in January, initially vaccinating hundreds of people daily. The Hawaii-based U.S. Army medical team has helped maintain a daily vaccination rate of over 2000 doses in the critical weeks before the May 1 goal.

"We are so happy to have them here," said Capt. Denise Chargualaf, commander, Task Force Medical, Joint Task Force 671, Guam National Guard. "With the 25th team now onboard, they have dramatically increased our numbers of vaccinations given. It's been so smooth with them. It's almost like they've been here with us since January when we started Operation Liberate Guam."

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, through U.S. Army Pacific, remains committed to providing continued, flexible Department of Defense support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency as part of the whole-of-government response to COVID-19. (PR)



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<p>2019 TOYOTA YARIS STOCK #: SP21R0039 Mileage: 12,278</p> <p>NOW \$14,999*</p>	<p>2019 TOYOTA YARIS STOCK #: SP21P0063, Mileage: 5,469 STOCK #: SP21P0064, Mileage: 8,004 STOCK #: SP21P0062, Mileage: 3,080 STOCK #: SP21P0065, Mileage: 65,681</p> <p>NOW \$15,999*</p>	<p>2017 TOYOTA SIENNA STOCK #: SP21F0012, FWD Mini-van, Passenger, 8-Speed Automatic w/OD, Super White, Mileage: 73,341</p> <p>NOW \$16,999*</p>	<p>2016 TOYOTA SIENNA STOCK #: SP20F0214, Salsa Red Pearl, FWD Mini-van, Passenger, 6-Speed Automatic w/OD, Mileage: 50,199 Was: \$17,494</p> <p>NOW \$16,999*</p>
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<p>2018 TOYOTA RAV4 LE STOCK #: SP21R0029 FWD, 6-Speed Automatic w/OD, Mileage: 27,344</p> <p>NOW \$20,299*</p>	<p>2020 TOYOTA COROLLA LE STOCK #: SP21P0049 FWD, 1-Speed CVT w/OD, Mileage: 2,462</p> <p>NOW \$21,999*</p>	<p>2019 TOYOTA RAV4 LE STOCK #: SP21R0042 AWD, Trans: 8-Speed Automatic w/OD, Mileage: 8,306</p> <p>NOW \$23,999*</p>	<p>2020 TOYOTA RAV4 LE STOCK #: SP21R0031, AWD, 8-Speed Automatic w/OD, Mileage: 8,770 Was: \$26,499</p> <p>NOW \$25,999*</p>
<p>2019 TACOMA PRERUNNER ACCESS CAB STOCK #: SP21P0071, White, Mileage: 23,004</p> <p>NOW \$26,999*</p>	<p>2018 TACOMA PRERUNNER DOUBLE CAB STOCK #: SP21F0066, Black, Mileage: 29,456</p> <p>NOW \$27,999*</p>	<p>*On approved credit. Conditions apply. See dealer for details. Fees not included. Mileage may vary.</p>	



U.S. NAVY/MCS2 MACADAM KANE WEISSMAN

Sgt. Diana Sandoval, a combat medic specialist assigned to 25th Infantry Division, administers a COVID-19 vaccine in support of the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services COVID-19 vaccination team at a vaccination clinic held at the University of Guam Calvo Field House.



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MCS senior is a semifinalist in nat'l scholars program

Mount Carmel School senior Victoria Nicole Santos has been selected as a semifinalist in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, making her one of about 625 semifinalists who have been selected from a candidates

pool of nearly 6,500 students.

Santos was informed of her selection in an email the Commission on U.S. Presidential Scholars sent her last Thursday, April 22. The commission will soon complete its selec-

tion of the high school seniors who will be named as the 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars and the U.S. Secretary of Education will announce the final 161 students in mid-May.

According to the U.S. Department of Education website, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 via an executive order to honor some of the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979 the program was expanded

to recognize exceptional students in the visual, creative, and performing arts and further expanded in 2015 to recognize exceptional students

in the career and technical education fields. The selection process begins with the millions of high school graduates who are eligible to apply across the United States, which is then narrowed to around 4,500 Presidential Scholar candidates, to around 800 Presidential Scholar semifinalists, to the final 161 Presidential Scholars. *(Joshua Santos)*



Santos

Navy awards \$25M contract to support Marines in Guam

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM—Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific awarded a \$25 million firm-fixed price contract last April 21 to Hensel Phelps Construction Co., of Honolulu, Hawaii, for the design and construction of a Combined Explosives Ordnance Disposal Compound at Marine Corps Base Guam.

"The successful award of this project is the direct result of the collaborative efforts from our stakeholders which include: III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Activity Guam, 9th Engineer Support Battalion EOD, Marine Corps Base Hawaii EOD, Marine Force Pacific (MFP) Defense Policy Review Initiative, MFP C4IT, Resident Officer in Charge of Construction Finegayan, Guam Program Management Office, Naval Intelligence Warfare Center Hawaii, NAVFAC Marianas, Joint Region Marianas, NAVFAC Pacific Contracting and Design & Construction

(DC), and RMAA-API Joint Venture," said Mark Nakagawa, NAVFAC Pacific DC project manager.

The compound will consist of a combined EOD building, organizational hazardous/flammable storage building, ready service lockers, trash enclosure, transformed enclosure, non-organizational vehicle parking, operational vehicle laydown area, and bicycle parking area.

"Our project team is motivated to support our Marines and their vital mission and we look forward to providing a world class, state of the art EOD Facility," said Nakagawa. "Our design team exhibited excellent teamwork and resilience during challenging times of COVID-19 pandemic and I am humbled and appreciative of the opportunity to be a part of this dedicated and hardworking team."

Work will be performed in Finegayan, Guam, with an expected completion date of October 2023. *(USN)*

Interior supports training for island gov't's finance officers

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs commends the Island Government Finance Officers Association on the conclusion of their winter meeting—their second virtual meeting—which took place on March 23 and March 24, 2021, and focused on the release of fiscal year 2019 single audits.

"I've enjoyed meeting with all the island government finance officers who have attended the IGFOA meetings over the years," said acting assistant secretary Nikolao Pula. "Accountability remains critical for each of the insular areas and I am pleased that we are able to continue the training and support the islands."

With most of the island jurisdictions delivering their 2019 single audits within the extended 15-month deadline for 2020, the insular governments have achieved improvements to the quality of their audits. Over the last 10 years the number of financial statement and federal compliance modifications (previously called "qualifications") have declined by half, from a total of 60 to 31. However, basic financial statement reconciliations and procurement violations continue to be significant

issues. While the amount of questioned costs were relatively low in fiscal year 2019 for most of the insular governments, the larger questioned cost amounts related to subgrantee monitoring and procurement.

The IGFOA winter conference convened approximately 70 finance officers and government finance officials from the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the freely associated states, which comprises the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Funded through the Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Program, the IGFOA works to build the local capacity of their respective government finance offices through biannual meetings that provide technical training and strategic support in public finance. Additional information on the IGFOA and the Pacific & Virgin Islands Training Initiatives can be found online at: <http://www.pitviti.org>.

More information about the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs can be found at www.doi.gov/oia. *(PR)*

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Crowdless music festival a resounding success

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite having zero live audience, over a hundred performers from different schools and of different age groups pulled off a three-hour cel-

ebration of music called the Saipan Wind Band Festival last Sunday, April 25, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. The performances were recorded for later sharing with the public.

According to Saipan Pacific

Winds Band director and lead organizer of the event Atsuko Eck, the festival “went really, really well and as we planned.”

The festival featured performances from the Su-san Band, Saipan International School Advanced Ensemble

directed by Tricia Anne Gleason, Saipan Community School Concert Band directed by Ruthi Fruit, Marianas High School Concert Band directed by Gina Aguilar, all four Mount Carmel School bands directed by Julian Greening, and the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band directed by Eck.

The closing half of the event featured a beginner-intermediate combined band and an advanced combined band, and the festival ultimately ended with a performance of *Torch of Liberty* by Karl King by all musicians present at the festival.

The music played at the event was about as diverse as the schools and musicians present, ranging from pieces one would expect to be played by a concert band like Johann Pachelbel’s *Canon in D* to familiar movie favorites like *Titanic*’s *My Heart Will*

Go on, a medley of songs from *The Greatest Showman* and music from Disney Pixar’s *The Incredibles*, to songs you would least expect at an orchestral concert event like *La Bamba* by Los Lobos, *Uptown Funk* by Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars, and the opening theme *Gurenge* from the anime *Demon Slayer*.

“I hope the children had a good time, and hearing the sounds was amazing. It was really good. I was really sad that we couldn’t share this with a live audience, but hopefully next year,” said Eck.

When ready, footage and pictures of the event will be posted on Saipan Pacific Winds’ Facebook page and YouTube channel.

The festival, traditionally held every year, had no live audience this time in order to comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

CCC

From Page 1

tional (CNMI) LLC, pending a CCC review of the regulations governing the junket program.

In the same Commission Order 2021-003 that the board adopted during its monthly meeting last Thursday, CCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero directed CCC executive director Andrew Yeom not to process any applications for junket licenses.

Junket refers to an arrangement between a casino and a tour operator to facilitate a period of gambling by one, or a group of players, to the casino.

DeLeon Guerrero ordered Yeom to contact the three current junket licensees and determine whether they wish to surrender their licenses due to IPI’s present lack of gaming activity.

The order takes effect 10 days after its publication in the *Commonwealth Register*.

DeLeon Guerrero said IPI’s gaming has temporarily ceased and junket activity by licensed junket operators has also stopped accordingly.

DeLeon Guerrero said only eight licenses remain valid, all of which will expire per their own terms before Oct. 1, 2022.

In a letter dated April 8, 2021, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres raised concerns about the junket program—presently authorized by Part 2600 of the regulations—and asked CCC to revisit this provision of the regulations, repeal this allowance for junket operator licenses, and enact safeguards and penalties to ensure that the operations of IPI do not permit junket activities within the casino under the CCC’s regulatory authority.

The chairman said CCC has determined that a comprehensive review of the junket program is warranted and no licenses under the present program should be renewed, nor new licenses issued until the comprehen-

sive review has occurred, and new regulations that address Torres’ concerns are promulgated.

At the meeting, DeLeon Guerrero said the junket program came later in CCC’s operation because every regulatory training that CCC members initially attended at the University of Nevada or anti-money laundering workshops have always recommended no junket operations in the CNMI.

“So that was already preset by us and we did not include it in our initial regulations,” he said.

When CCC started out a few months into operation, IPI approached the commission, requesting if they could entertain the junket program, DeLeon Guerrero said, and they listened to both sides of the story about how important the junket program is to any casino operations.

“We understand that it is critical that we have people who function as a kind of a glorified travel agent, where you get out and get all the different VIP players to make them aware of the Commonwealth and then arrange their travel for them to come in here,” DeLeon Guerrero said.

He said the commission appreciates that the junkets do play a role in reducing IPI’s direct accounts receivable on the VIP program because it allows the junket operator to be guarantor of those credits. However, he said, they have been very disappointed in IPI’s performance with this junket program because, since the departure of then-IPI’s chief executive officer Mark Brown, and subsequently the departure of Chuck McDonald, who was then manager of compliance, no one at IPI had any knowledge or any interest in doing anything with junkets.

“We pleaded with different groups at IPI, saying we already licensed all these people. You have to designate someone that they can work with. No

one was interested,” DeLeon Guerrero said.

He said they found that “very disappointing and very frustrating” since it was IPI that originally almost begged CCC for the junket program to be implemented and then, in the end, no one wanted to touch it.

At that point, he said, they got the April 8 letter from Torres. He said Torres got a lot of pressure from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and various groups in the community that they are also aware of how junkets are illegal in mainland China and Hong Kong.

“It basically says that all of the current junkets really are illegal,” he said, adding it doesn’t make sense for this junket program to continue at this time.

DeLeon Guerrero said they have received comments and recommendations that the junket operation is a threat to the CNMI’s tourism industry, particularly since there are a lot of Chinese tourists in the CNMI. “There is a fear that the Chinese government will put the CNMI government on the blacklist of countries that are not approved for destination,” he said.

The chairman disclosed that they were actually reluctant to entertain any junket application from China and that the only way that they proceeded was they worked with IPI’s then-consultant, a former Internal Revenue Service supervisor, and a former FinCen prosecutor, which also at the time was an IPI’s adviser.

“Together with the CCC, we formulated the policy for the Bank Secrecy Act, the anti-money laundering, and we required each of these junket operators to comply and adopt the anti-money laundering,” he said.

DeLeon Guerrero said it was the only way that they can entertain the program because they could not investigate anybody in China.



DeLeon Guerrero

POWER

From Page 1

Paradise Hotel, which is just across the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan, got struck by lightning, causing the power supply to go out across feeders 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and Kiya 2 and 3.

CUC said its Power, Transmission & Distribution division immediately took action and went to work to make the necessary repairs to re-energize all the feeder circuits.

The power outage also affected majority of the island’s traffic lights, causing many to cease to function correctly.

Water services also went offline until 4:30pm yesterday in China Town, Upper MIHA, and As Falape

because CUC water operation personnel were troubleshooting the Calhoun tank service area and making repairs to restore affected areas.

The northern part of the island—As Matuis, Achugao, San Roque, and Tanapag—will experience water outage until today at 6am due to low tank level caused by the emergency power outage.

According to CUC, the following feeders were turned back on at the following times:

■ Feeder 1—northern part of Sadog Tasi to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. went back on at 1:41pm;

■ Feeder 1—Navy Hill, Chalan Galaide, Southern part of Sadog Tasi, Puerto Rico, Garapan, and China Town went back on at 1:46pm;

■ Feeder 2—Garapan Beach Road, Chalan Laulau, and northern part of

San Jose went back on at 12:50pm;

■ Feeder 3—Lower Base, Puerto Rico, the Imperial Pacific International resort and casino went back on at 1:30pm;

■ Feeder 4—parts of Sadog Tasi, Capitol Hill, As Teo, all of Kagman, Wireless Ridge, I Denni, Talafofo, Mt. Tapochau, and Papago went back on at 12:36pm;

■ Feeder 7—Lower Base, Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, and As Matuis went back on at 12:48pm;

■ Kiya 2—San Antonio, As Lito, As Perdido, Koblerville, As Gonno, Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa district 3, southern part of CK district 4, and Agingan went back on at 1:32pm; and

■ Kiya 4—Chalan Kiya going toward Gualo Rai intersection on Middle Road went back on 12:44pm.

IPI

From Page 1

March 31, the total credit facility amount is \$500 million, but \$150 million was drawn down during the year ending Dec. 31, 2019.

Imperial Pacific International Holdings said they will draw down the \$350 million in unutilized credit facility when necessary.

When the report was filed, the exchange rate for \$1 was HK\$7.838.

The company also reported net losses of HK\$2,853,927,000 and HK\$3,904,270,000 for the group (Imperial Pacific International Holdings Limited and its subsidiaries) for the year ending Dec. 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively, and had net current liabilities of HK\$9,369,794,000 and net liabilities of HK\$2,733,345,000 and capital commitments of HK\$512,166,000 as of Dec. 31, 2020.

Despite this, the company reported the group will have adequate funds available to enable it to operate based on the group’s business forecast and cash flow projection.

The company attributed the losses

to the adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic, which has also resulted in the temporary closure of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC’s casino operation on Saipan since March 17, 2020.

The company said they will contact their lenders and bond and note holders to renew certain other borrowing and unsecured bonds and notes with aggregate principal amount to approximately HK\$3,765,237,000 outstanding as of Dec. 31, 2020, which were originally due for repayment in 2021, for extension of the repayment tenure to 2022.

The company said they have undertaken efforts to provide additional funding to settle their operations, liabilities, potential liabilities related to litigation, the casino annual license fee, and the community benefit fund and capital investments.

At the Commonwealth Casino Commission board’s regular monthly meeting last Thursday, citing Imperial Pacific International Holdings Limited’s financial statements, commissioners Mariano Taitano and Ramon M. Dela Cruz questioned why IPI is not using the \$350 million to settle all its financial obligations.

GRADUATION

From Page 1

coming Class of 2021.

Board of Education chair Andrew Orsini said that many graduating students have expressed a desire to have a traditional graduation—an in-person graduation—with some limitations that fit into the COVID-19 guidelines.

Orsini said the conversation whether to have an in-person graduation or not was brought up in a previous board meeting, with students and parents wanting a “more formal graduation ceremony” for the students. He said if BOE and PSS will accommodate that, then Rota and Tinian will also be having an in-person graduation.

Orsini said last year’s graduating class had no choice but to have a virtual graduation. With the upcoming graduates, the PSS administration is looking into working with the task

force to see how an in-person graduation can happen.

“We should look at the students’ wants, and these students worked hard to get to where they’re at and [this is their] last school year. I think it’s important for them because you don’t graduate from high school all the time, you graduate once. ...If things ease up by May, hopefully something will come up and develop,” said Orsini.

Regardless of how the graduation will happen, Orsini said that the BOE and PSS will try to make it “better” for the high school graduating classes.

As for students returning to full face-to-face classes, Orsini said they are looking forward to transitioning before the fall, which is in early August. As for now, they are focusing more on those who are graduating.

Last year, both PSS and the Northern Marianas College transitioned to virtual graduations, followed by a drive-thru diploma distribution.

Apatang: Listen to the people

While Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang isn't endorsing anyone running for Saipan mayor at the moment, his only advice to candidates who are gunning for the post that he will be vacating is to "listen to the people."

In an interview with Apatang last Friday, he said he isn't endorsing anybody now because they are his friends. "I don't think it's fair that I endorse anybody at this point in time, I think we should wait.

I'm still a mayor until 2023, so [there's] still time," he said.

Whoever's endorsed by Apatang's party, then he will probably endorse and support him/her. Apatang ran during the last elections as a candidate of the Republican Party.

As for his advice to the two who have already made

public their plans to run for mayor—Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho and Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Tenorio Guerrero (R-Saipan)—Apatang said they should "listen to the people."

"That's why you are here, you work for them. ... We have hardworking staff here in this office, and they work hard for our taxpayers. Devote your time to let people listen to our people because [there's] a lot of them that need help, especially after typhoons," said Apatang.

As his term nears its end, Apatang said it's been "very challenging" but he remains committed to working for the people until his last day, which is in January 2023.

"I committed myself after I retired from the military to come back and work for people and I'm still working. So hopefully I'll be okay when I get out here. I don't know what I'm going to do, but we'll wait

and see," said Apatang.

In reminiscing about the early parts of his term, Apatang says he's the "only mayor who's been through hell." Apatang has been through two typhoons—Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 and Typhoon Soude-lor 2015—during his term as Saipan mayor. Also, when he first stepped into office, there

were no equipment and the office had rundown trucks, so his office applied for many grants to supply his office with new equipment and trucks.

"After Super Typhoon Yutu, there were a lot of challenges here in the office. The next mayor... will have all the equipment here now," said Apatang. *(Justine Nauta)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Emergency water service interruption for entire Kagman

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be an emergency scheduled water service interruption for the entire Kagman area beginning yesterday until further notice. Details are as follow:

■ Kagman I and II- Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 6pm to 6am.

■ Kagman HI- Every Tuesday and Thursday, from 6pm to 6am.

The emergency water schedule is due to the low tank level of the Kagman TSA. CUC's Leak Detection personnel are currently performing leak detection within the Kagman area for leaks. Restoration of normal water service to the village of Kagman will resume once the cause of the low tank level is determined and repaired. Updates will follow as soon as they are available.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any in-

convenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). *(PR)*

4.5-magnitude quake near Saipan

At 8:06pm on April 25, 2021, a report of a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred 256 kilometers north of Saipan in the CNMI. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. *(PR)*

Free webinar on GovGuam procurement

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering a free live webinar on April 29 about procurement for the Guam government. The Guam PTAC will explain GovGuam procurement rules, where to find opportuni-

ties, and how to submit bids. The webinar run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar. Register on our website, <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. *(PR)*

Chamoru commission meeting set

The *Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'ná'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Tao-tao Tâno'* (Commission on Chamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its second April monthly Virtual meeting on April 29, 2021, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 3:30pm on a Zoom link. Email kumision secretary Roland R. Blas at (Roland.Blas@kf-chamoru.guam.gov) and/or (rolandblas1973@gmail.com) for Zoom link information, special accommodations, and agenda. *(PR)*




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Eliceo D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

INVASIVE UNGULATE CONTROL WITH PLANT MANAGEMENT ON AGUIGUAN ISLAND

COASTAL PERMIT NO. TMS-2021-025


The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Invasive Ungulate Control with Plant Management Project on Aguiguan Island.

The Office of the Mayor of Tinian is proposing to implement control measures on the effects of taking of the Micronesian megapode on Aguiguan Island. The Micronesian megapode (*Megapodius laperouse*) is a federally and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) listed endangered species. The purpose of this project is to create additional megapode habitat on Aguiguan Island, followed by plant management, and assist in ungulate control. Additional proposals include restoring forest habitat by installing fence units, and planting native overstory trees to regenerate naturally.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 5:00 PM**. The venue for this hearing will be announced at a later date. COVID-19 protocols will be implemented and all participants are required to wear a mask at all times. Participants may join virtually via Google Meet by accessing meet.google.com/kao-aaf-dij.

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. The project files are open and can be reviewed by scheduling an appointment with DCRM. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Invasive Ungulate Control with Plant Management Project.


/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY

Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center



Public Service Announcement – Availability of Criminal Justice Grants

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is announcing the availability of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These Grant Program include the Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA), the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program and the Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). A brief description and amounts available for each award under individual programs are listed below. Please visit our Office on Capitol Hill, building 1315 for a more detailed explanation on eligibility requirements, program purpose areas and the new application form. **All applicants must have a DUNS number and nonprofit agencies must have a 501 (c) (3) Federal Tax Exemption.**

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) FY2020: \$168,531.00
The Available funds can be implemented in the following purpose areas: Law Enforcement program, Prosecution and Court Programs, Prevention and Education programs, Corrections and community corrections programs, Drug treatment and enforcement programs. Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs. Crime victim and witness program (other than compensation).

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Assistance Formula Program: FY2020: \$432,981.00

- To comply with VOCA guidelines, funds made available through VOCA assistance program is intended for agencies that provide direct service to victims of crime. Funds under this program is designed to provide direct services to all victims of child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assaults.
- All applicants must show in their application how they will provide direct services to one or more of the crime victims mentioned above.
- New applicants must also show on their application that they have a history of providing direct services to crime victims and have other sources of funding to support the program to ensure continuity of services to victims.

Amounts Available:
Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse: \$383,248.00
Underserved Crime Victims: \$49,732.00

STOP Violence Against Women Act Formula Grant Program (VAWA) FY2020: \$556,696.00
STOP-VAWA grant programs provide assistance for victims through protection and services that they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while simultaneously enabling communities to hold offenders accountable for their violence. In accordance with the STOP program requirements "CNMI Three Year Implementation Plan", STOP-VAWA grant funds are made available to support law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and the Superior Court in the CNMI. Allotted agencies mentioned below, must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals, objectives and activities will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs. In accordance with the CNMI Implementation Plan, these categories and/or agencies are allotted at least the following amounts based on the requirements percentages set by VAWA:

- Non Profit, Non-Governmental Victim Services:** of which at least 10% is to be distributed to culturally-specific community based organizations; Victim Services = \$105,076.00; Culturally Specific Services = \$18,566.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$43,376.00. Total for Victim Services = \$167,008.00.
- Law Enforcement** \$102,912.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$36,262.00. Total for law Enforcement: \$139,174.00
- Prosecution** \$102,912.00; Programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$36,262.00. Total for Prosecution \$139,174.00.
- Courts** \$20,024.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$7,809.00. Total for Court \$27,833.00.
- Discretionary;** may be spent at the discretion of the state/territory to address statutory program areas, \$83,504.00

Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) FY2020: \$59,460.00
The Sexual Assault Service Program (SASP), created by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, is the first federal funding stream solely dedicated to the provision of direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. Overall, the purpose of SASP is to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment, support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault, family and household members of victims, and those collaterally affected by the sexual assault. This grant is for Non Profit agencies that provide sexual assault services only. The available funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant review process and plan consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned DOJ programs. Projects funded under these programs will be monitored and administered by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. Dates for the award process will be announced at a later date.

All completed applications and required documents must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 14, 2021.
No application will be accepted after the deadline.

For Tinian and Rota Applications Only:
Completed applications submitted from Rota and Tinian will be accepted by emailing ztainanao.cjpa@gmail.com, including a "must" be submitted hardcopy via air waybill with the deadline said above stamped or recorded on the "executed on date and time" section of the air waybill. Incomplete application(s) sent in by fax will not be accepted.

For more information and for interested applicants, please contact CJPA at 664-4550/4551/4554/4556/4558 or stop by the Office on Capitol Hill (Building #1315). Please indicate and specify which grant and year you are applying for on the application. If necessary, please call the CJPA Office at 664-4550.

Indirect Cost will be assessed on government entities.

/s/ Hon. Alejandro C. Castro
Chairman, Supervisory Council

/s/ Zerlyn A. Taimanao
Executive Director, CJPA

Bayani Association donates care packages

Last April 18, 2021, the Bayani Association, in coordination with Venesa Buen and volunteers, distributed care packages to 30 families in Paciano, Rizal Bay, Laguna in the Philippines. Due to the implementation of a Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine as a COVID-19 mitigation measure, volunteers could not distribute in one place to avoid social gatherings but they were able to let the recipients pick up the donations. The care packages included canned goods, bread, spread, noodles, 15-lb bag of rice, coffee, biscuits, powdered milk, face shield, and alcohol. “We can always help in our little way and we are so grateful to our donors, Ms. Anna Mercado and Jimmy Del Peralta, said Bayani Association president Annamae Adaza. The volunteers were Fhe Calabria, Dolly Driz, Rowena Lapitan, Ruth Faith Navarro, and Buen. The Bayani Association is a non-profit organization. If you wish to collaborate in giving back to the community, call Adaza at 285-4388 or secretary Marie Paz Meister at 785-0349. *(PR)*



FAMILY FUN NIGHT
One of the Division of Youth Services’ many banners installed around San Vicente Central Park during DYS’s Family Fun Night at the San Vicente Youth Center last Friday. The park’s playground equipment, gazebo, and hut were put to full use during the event.
JOSHUA SANTOS



A centerpiece of the San Vicente Central Park, the hut housed some of the Division of Youth Services’ booths during their Family Fun Night at the San Vicente Youth Center last Friday.
JOSHUA SANTOS



Mariah Barcinas, leftmost, and Missy Aldan, second from left, hand out slap bracelets, tops, and information pamphlets at the Division of Youth Services booth during DYS’ Family Fun Night at the San Vicente Youth Center last Friday.
JOSHUA SANTOS



Two children play Cornhole at the Division of Youth Services’ Family Fun Night at the San Vicente Youth Center last Friday. The event also had other games and activities, a raffle, and live performances from Hopwood Middle School students, 6LICK S373N Z3R0 Group, and the MHS Glee Club.
JOSHUA SANTOS



A volunteer hosts a game of “2 pics 1 word” at her booth during the Division of Youth Services’ Family Fun Night at the San Vicente Youth Center last Friday.
JOSHUA SANTOS

HONORS’ LIST

Mount Carmel School congratulates these students for making it to the 3rd Quarter President’s List and Honor Roll.

PRESIDENT’S LIST
Students must have a GPA of 4.00 or above and must attain character marks of VG or above.

- 1st Grade**
- Aiesha Sadie Camacho
 - Aleaya Bermudes
 - Carina Guerrero
 - Chloe Nicole Arnold
 - Crystin Pangelinan
 - Ezekiel Ma’Nu’l Villagomez
 - Felix Ryan Tomokane
 - Gino Marvin Deleon Guerrero
 - Jake Hiram Maratita
 - Jamarra Jayde Cabrera-Sablan
 - Kaiya Isabel Pangelinan
 - Khoen Alexander Coldeen Torres
 - Naomi Elizabeth Benjamin
 - Prescott Jonathan Cabrera
 - Sinako Annette Leiyang-scheng Tagabuel
 - Youngwoo Choi
 - Yuna Yu
 - Zane Fujihira

- 2nd Grade**
- Aiyana Pangelinan
 - Aliyani Basa
 - Anah Bellah Guerrero
 - Avril Hershey Dimaculangan
 - Chloe Jane Militante
 - Clarise Garamonte
 - Friella Huanne Dela Santa
 - Ian James De Leon
 - Ivan Fernand Fortades
 - Jake Peter Deleon Guerrero Jr.
 - Jonathan Zhang
 - Joseph Francisco White

- Kendra Elise Camacho
- Kirk Ivan De Perio
- Qoheleth Thomas Blas
- Scarlett Shae Salas
- Sera Guerrero
- Viane Johanna Magboo
- Vinae Jaydene Pua
- Vince Angelo Estella
- Zayne Reyes

- 3rd Grade**
- Adelle Jane Kautz
 - Amber Faith Militante
 - Ava Carmina Sablan
 - Avah Mae Delacruz
 - Cali Jade Cabrera
 - Chloe Anne Marie Matsunaga
 - Chloe Cepeda
 - Daniel Kang
 - Ezaela Patrice Camacho
 - Francisco Joseph Cruz
 - Franko Ray Tudela
 - Hyunseo Yun
 - Jeongwoo Choi
 - Ji Woo Lee
 - Karl Angelo Diaz
 - Kathleen Cano
 - Kennani Vinae Villagomez
 - Ki Eun Lee
 - Lydia Xian
 - Miana Dolores Delacruz
 - Mikayla Guerrero
 - Paige Kanae Cabrera
 - Talina Aguan-Mcclure
 - Victoria Eve Terlaje
 - Von Derick Lauron

- 4th Grade**
- Jaden Shyne Fujihira
 - Jaze Enzo San Nicolas
 - Joey Claude Mostales
 - Kainoa Tenorio
 - Maria Guerrero
 - Mia Guerrero
 - Payton Thomas Pangelinan
 - Trisha Juliana Abuan

- 5th Grade**
- Aya Santos
 - Cecilia R. Villagomez
 - Ciana Lei Demapan
 - Cyril Michael Pangilinan
 - Do Geon Kim

- Dylan Niric
- Gabriella Aundrea B. Inos
- Jadine Nicole Pangelinan
- Jener Franz Pineda
- Jessi Chen
- Kayla Larson
- Layla Carmen Ann Palacios
- Remiegem Melchor

- 6th Grade**
- Carly Kate Dela Cruz
 - Chan Seo Yeom
 - Chan Woong Yeom
 - Christine Rosanne Castro
 - Christopher James Dela Cruz
 - Ethan Jayce Tomokane
 - Hope McQuay
 - Iris Maleia Rasa
 - Jeffrey Concepcion
 - Jose Clarence Tenorio
 - Juliana Magan Subang
 - Justin Mallari
 - Kaden Christian Propst
 - Kaitlyn Alexza Drilon
 - Naomi Skye Matsumoto
 - Nicole Angela Pangilinan
 - Patricia Matsumoto
 - Sage R. Villagomez
 - Sarah Angela Melchor
 - Stephanie Joyce Sevilla
 - Taher Shakir
 - Yuliana Lorenza Maratita

- 7th Grade**
- Arwen Hannah Bartolota
 - Asa Baacke
 - Emmanuel Pontiveros
 - Gavril Myles Santiago
 - Heleyna Frielle Dela Santa
 - Jessiana Tenorio
 - Kate Nicole Cabalbag
 - Kayli Ari Salas
 - Leonard Jake Regalado
 - Mikayla Castro
 - Oscar Bien Buenaflo
 - Patricia Denielle Lugtu
 - Seunghee Jeon
 - Valerie Anne Estella
 - Victor Nash Santos
 - William Matthew Cano

- 8th Grade**

- Audrein Jennifer Mallari
- Chelsy Anne Reyes
- Irene Kim
- Irie Kane Camacho
- Jaeyun Jung
- Jay Francis Dominic Pineda
- Kaeli Pathil
- Kelly Zheng
- Laizha Vianca Mallari
- Latisha Anne De Jesus
- Malina Rose Tenorio
- Princes Amanda Habal
- Tricia Antonnette Palacios
- Zhen Ni Huang

- 9th Grade**
- Brandon Lee
 - Devin Jordan Propst
 - Earle Gabreil San Nicolas
 - Gwen Tiffany Gamab
 - Jonathan Sheu
 - Juliana Vergara
 - Kevin Zheng
 - Kriselle Bryana Mitzu Drilon
 - Leyonne Alfred Tolentino
 - Natalie Gabrielle Ano
 - Paul Angelo Santos
 - Ruben Guerrero
 - Sanghyeok Lee
 - Tyana Kisha Tesiro
 - Xin Wen Jin

- 10th Grade**
- Brent Matthew Ortizo
 - Donnie James Jr. Militante
 - Francine Monique Albuen
 - Gerald Jr. Deleon Guerrero
 - Keehara Nielsen Baldazo
 - Kina Dela Cruz
 - Kyla Monique Cabrera
 - Leunyce Regalado
 - Manuel Jacinto Pangelinan
 - Raven-Mae Driver
 - Yurihana Rosa Sasamoto

- 11th Grade**
- Aleia Santos
 - Christian Guerrero
 - Fiona Marielle Bucalig
 - Hannah Lacap

- Hyunkyu Park
- Jeffrey Sheu
- Jeremiah Jerome Diaz
- Jihwan Ryu
- Joshua Donovan Tenorio
- JunBeom Kim
- Larry Dean Cruz
- Monique Laura Duenas
- Raesyl Gerard Solis
- Richard Jesus Villagomez
- Robin Kyle Alvarez
- Vaughn Andrei Mallari
- Victoria Ancheta
- William Nathaniel Ano

- 12th Grade**
- Brandee Hunter
 - Brian Youn
 - Carmille Perez
 - Christian Dean Palattao
 - Connie Zhu
 - Hwan Hee (Shaina) Lee
 - Katherine Avendano-Woodruff
 - Kevin Kang
 - Mikee Mame Mendoza
 - Penelope Sablan
 - Puti’on Palacios-Camacho
 - Raymalyn Guanlao
 - Reuben Christian Tomboc
 - Seungwoo (Raffy) Lee
 - Sinahi Ray Cepeda
 - Skyler Poon
 - Trinity Cruz
 - Victoria Nicole Santos
 - Vince Philip Salvador
 - Xavier Gatmaitan

HONOR ROLL
Students must have a GPA of 3.66 or above and must not have any behavior grade of U or NI.

- 1st Grade**
- Aiden Ray Cepeda
 - Aycee Rianne Quitugua
 - Candize Paige Delos Reyes
 - Gabriella Jo Tenorio
 - Maven Borja

- 2nd Grade**
- Alesa Ilmova

- Brayden Luke Repata
- John Damien Sablan
- Logan Propst
- Madden Anthony DeleonGuerrero
- Minjoon (Michale) Jeon
- Neia Dolana Noreyemal Tagabuel
- Okamura Jaxon Itisoorschigh Tagabuel
- Oliveeah Julee Kaipat
- Seungwoo Lee
- Tone Yoshise
- Yu Ma

- 3rd Grade**
- Aiyah Elise Igitol
 - Jayda Milan Torres
 - Krish Devjani
 - Reef Cole Reyes
 - Reesa Marie Borja

- 4th Grade**
- Caydince Raine Masga
 - Fatima Joy Dimaun
 - Jamie Nicole Pereira
 - Leonmar Jaedon Regalado
 - Logan Matsumoto
 - Miguel Garret Mendoza
 - Xin Lei (Steven) Song

- 5th Grade**
- Arstin Itibwulschigh Tagabuel
 - Aubrey Rae Quitugua
 - Cassidee Jolina Flores
 - Francisco Maratita
 - Isabella Soledad Demapan
 - Janessa Francine Arriola
 - Jayson Jared Tagabuel
 - Ju Hwan Hyun
 - Katherine Hwang
 - Kimason Cabrera
 - Kingston Isaiah Deleon Guerrero
 - Krishna Devjani
 - Siwoo Lee
 - Tanner Larel Mcclure

- 6th Grade**
- Aiden Manuel Wesley
 - Akoni Jesus Matsumoto
 - Enzo Umeki Sasamoto

- Frank Anthony Reyes
- Hiroimi Rosa Sasamoto
- Kesil Camacho
- Ki Won Lee
- Matthew Guerrero
- Maya Jae Jung
- Maya McQuay
- Patrick Guerrero
- Serenity Anne Fujihira
- Seungwoo Choi
- Wayne Dominic Ano
- Yukiko Kiyomi Sasamoto

- 7th Grade**
- Alexandria Dysangco
 - Andrick Poon
 - Ayanna Faith Matsumoto
 - Chae Eun Kim
 - Elise Maratita
 - Israel De Leon Jr.
 - Joseph Brandon Pangelinan
 - Luis Manibusan
 - Mikaehla Paige Mendoza
 - Mya Pangelinan
 - Quince Emanuele Tizon
 - Raina Park

- 8th Grade**
- Alvin Choi
 - Ari James Toskas
 - Arturo Rodrigo Travilla
 - Aryana Carmen Taimanao
 - Claire Regina Kautz
 - Dylan Santos
 - Earl Pete Jacob Lacandazo
 - Hitomi Rosa Sasamoto
 - Jada Chang
 - Jamie Lee
 - Jee Woo Son
 - Lyssa Rae Steele
 - Maili Peter
 - Mia Ysabela Abuan
 - Nicole Erin Mariano
 - Vayden Matagolai

- 9th Grade**
- Angel Li
 - Arman Kaito Rechucher
 - Ashley Jo Sablan
 - Avah Marie Torres
 - Breanna Sue Mafnas
 - Camille Alannah Sablan
 - Ierlyma Nicole Deleon

- Guerrero
- Jazmin Jay Tagabuel
- Jeery Chen
- Leo Bang
- Maria Torres
- Marini Millo
- Mark Jainier Chavez
- Minki Jung
- Palikkun George
- Paul William Camacho II
- Sophia Camacho
- Tian Si Xu
- Tiana Torres
- Ye Jin Ha

- 10th Grade**
- Aubriana Maria Sablan
 - Brissa Hunter
 - Da Hyun Shim
 - Derek Moritaro Sasamoto
 - Dohyun Lim
 - Erin Frink
 - Jazmyn Phoeme Lopez
 - Jill Anne Marie Mallari
 - Jose Mafnas
 - Leopoldo Naraja
 - Mathew Adrian Sablan
 - Moeisha Eleanor Cruz
 - Raeka Shereen Lantin

- 11th Grade**
- Christopher Adam Mafnas
 - Cory Lee
 - Hyunjun Kim
 - Jimin Kwon
 - Kaia Travilla
 - Kiana Lei Propst
 - Kwonjoon Ha
 - Lyndon Digno
 - Regina Huerto
 - Richard Ramon Steele
 - Theresa Rose Schweiger
 - Yu Jeong Son

- 12th Grade**
- Bernard Angelo Marcelo
 - James Patrick San Nicolas
 - Jieyu Lin
 - John Isaac San Nicolas
 - Kadie Verlyn Aldan
 - Kyle Attao
 - Lina Lee

PSS submits \$54M budget proposal for FY 2022

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System has submitted a budget proposal of \$54 million for fiscal year 2022, according to Board of Education chair Andrew L. Orsini.

In a telephone interview with Orsini, he said that PSS submitted its budget last March 26, well before the due date last April 1. This budget, Orsini said, will be "enough to carry" them through fiscal year 2022,

which is from October 2021 through September 2022.

PSS previously projected to operate on a \$58-million budget for the next fiscal year.

The \$54 million that PSS is proposing will be able to retain PSS' existing personnel and bring in more qualified personnel that are needed. PSS expects to spend \$41 million on salaries and benefits, which is 71% of the money it is asking for.

PSS will also look into hiring teacher aides to replace the

shortfall of aides. Orsini said PSS lost 34 highly qualified teachers during the pandemic.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said PSS is budgeting for 772 locally funded employees and 229 federally funded employees.

With the \$515 million that the CNMI will be receiving

from the federal government, Orsini said he believes that PSS will get what they proposed. Recently, PSS received \$161 million, on top of the \$60 million they received in 2020, which Orsini said will carry them for the next three years. Orsini estimated that \$60 million will be used each year for a total of three years.

With the federal monies, Orsini said PSS will be able to fix typhoon-damaged schools on Rota and Tinian.

"Now because we have this infusion of funds that are coming our way, this will address those needs that have been kept [on standby] for quite a while even before the pandemic," said Orsini.

He said with the federal monies have been a big help

to balance out the shortage of local funds that PSS has been anticipating.

"We're pretty blessed, with this in line. [The] federal monies...[have] really been a big help to balance the shortage of local funds that we've been anticipating. I think that, as far as looking at this year [and] the next two years, I think we're going to be in pretty good shape," said Orsini.

Public warned of high surf and choppy seas

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6am today, Tuesday, while a high surf advisory is now in effect until 6am Wednesday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, southwest winds of 15 to 25 knots and seas of 7 to 10 feet are present along Marianas coastal waters until 6am today. Conditions will be hazardous to small craft.

Multiple swells generated by the remnants of Surigae and a large mid-latitude low pressure will produce large, choppy seas and prolong hazardous surf conditions for the

next couple of days. These sea conditions will make the operation of small craft difficult.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, are advised to avoid navigating in hazardous conditions.

Hazardous surf of 8 to 12 feet and dangerous rip currents are present along west and north facing reefs until 6am Wednesday.

Large breaking waves can knock you down and cause serious injuries. Strong rip currents can drag you out to sea.

Residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are advised to avoid venturing near reef lines facing north and west. It will be risky to swim or snorkel in these conditions. (PR)

OVR starts new recognition program: Consumer/Employer of the Week

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has created a new segment on their Facebook page where they acknowledge the "Consumer/Employer of the Week," which focuses on the consumer and employer rather than the workplace.

According to the Pre-Employment Transition Services coordinator Sam Santos, the idea behind the social media post is to "shift the framework" of OVR's social media page because the consumer/employer are the reason why they work. So far, OVR has recognized two consumers and two employers of the week.

Santos said it's important for OVR to do this segment every week because it helps them celebrate and showcase OVR's achievements to the

community.

"OVR is only successful if their consumers are successful. In addition, it is also a great way for us to express our most sincere gratitude and support toward our partner agencies and businesses," said Santos.

Their first one was in honor of National Library Week where they recognized the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library for their partnership and agreeing to train two of OVR's consumers under the Work Experience Training program.

"We extend our appreciation to JKPL executive director Erlinda Naputi, and her hardworking staff for opening their doors to people with disabilities. We would also like to recognize our trainees' supervisor, Ms. Beth Demapan, who is the Technical Services Librarian at JKPL, for the

overwhelming positive remarks she has for our consumers," said OVR on their Facebook page.

Their first Consumer of the Week was Tyler Villacrusis, 20, who applied at OVR in February 2019 and was determined eligible for VR services in March 2019. Villacrusis was referred by one of OVR's partners, the Disability Support Services at the Northern Marianas College, where he is attending classes.

Villacrusis is a Marianas High School alumnus who is studying in the educational field at NMC.

"Tyler wanted to gain some training and experience in the workforce, specifically at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and was able to achieve this through OVR's Work Experience Training program, where he is training as a librarian as-

sistant," said OVR.

The other Consumer of the Week is Eddie Gus Sablan who is a Saipan Southern High School alumnus who now works at Taro Sue in Garapan. He is also a participant of OVR's WET program.

The other Employer of the Week is Taro Sue Corp., which has been in partnership with OVR for over two years.

"With the amazing assistance of TSC general manager Arlene Silva, OVR has been able to place a number of consumers for the WET program and the On-The-Job Training program. In the past year, they have also hired one of our previous consumers as a full-time employee," said OVR.

OVR thanks TSC for "providing meaningful and beneficial trainings to our consumers, in an integrated and conducive work environment."

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Biden set the right climate goal. Now we have to meet it

Now, of course, comes the hard part.

President Joe Biden opened an international climate summit Thursday with a pledge that the U.S. would reduce carbon emissions by 50% by the end of the decade. It's an appropriate and reachable goal, per the experts, but one that will take sweeping efforts, actions and investments.

Regrettably, Biden didn't describe his road map for getting there, but he has included some elements in earlier proposals, such as ending the use of fossil fuels to produce the nation's electricity and adding at least 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations to shore up consumer interest in electric vehicles (a proposal he offered in his campaign).

He laid out a big-picture vision in his comments, tying the effort to job creation. "I see an opportunity to create millions of good-paying middle-class union jobs," Biden said, describing "line workers laying thousands of miles of transmission lines for a clean, modern, resilient grid" and others working to seal off abandoned wells and mines, "putting a stop to the methane leaks and protecting the health of our communities."

He also called for using hydrogen to more cleanly power heavily polluting steel and cement plants, and for persuading farmers to use "cutting-edge tools to make soil of our heartland the next frontier in carbon innovation."

Lots of vision, not a lot of details.

This will not be easy. And although a unified federal government leading the charge is vital, much of the onus will fall on consumers who have been slow to buy electric vehicles instead of the gas-powered pickup trucks and SUVs with which they've been so enamored.

And by some estimates, new motor vehicles remain on the road for an average of 11 years before being scrapped, which means more than half of the 15 million new vehicles expected to be sold this year will still be burning gasoline in 2030 unless the government comes up with a transition plan. (Biden has suggested reviving the Obama administration's "cash for clunkers" program to incentivize car owners to switch to electric or hydrogen cell vehicles.)

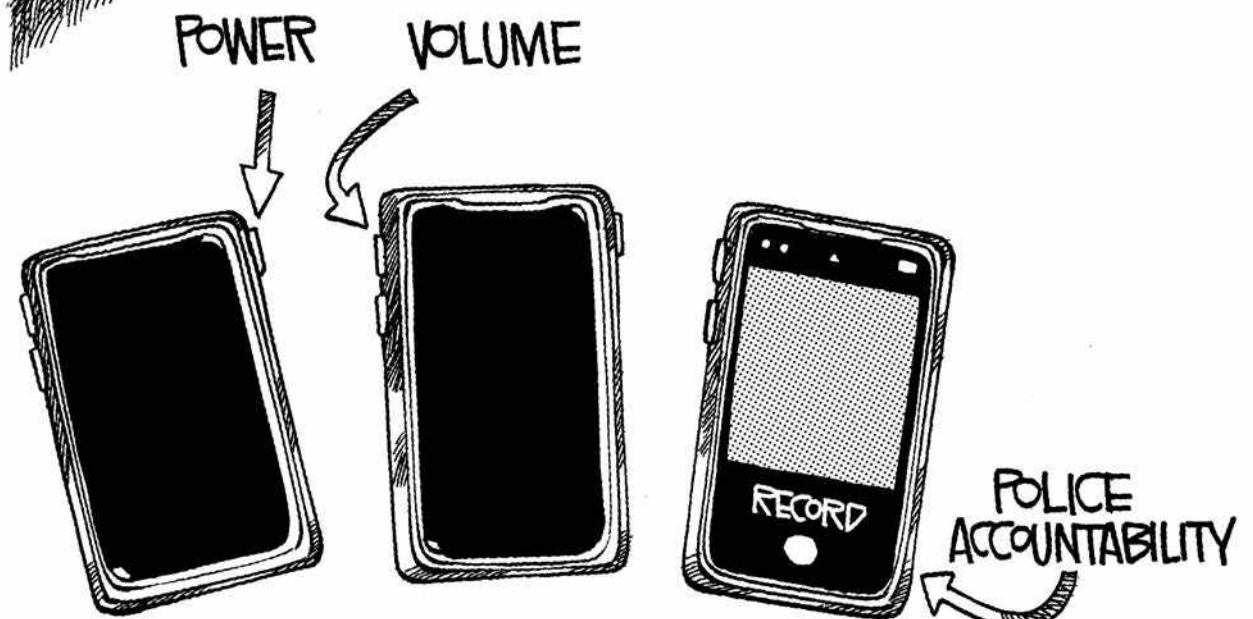
Further, nearly half of U.S. homes are heated with gas furnaces; converting those to electric fuel pumps or other sources will be expensive. Americans love their beef and other meats, but raising the animals—particularly cattle—is a significant contributor to the problem. Not only do the animals emit copious amounts of methane, but ranchers around the globe also are clearing critical carbon-sucking forest for pastureland.

And on and on. Burning fossil fuels undergirds much of our existing economy; that's what needs to change.

So it's good that Biden has declared this ambitious goal, and that other countries are pushing similar though in many cases less-ambitious agendas. But that sets up a political

See **BIDEN** on Next Page

GUIDE TO USING A CELLPHONE



MIKE SMITH

LAS VEGAS SUN-JUNE 1 DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/US

I'm not new to this

The journey to this moment has been painful and so very difficult. Derek Chauvin's killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis was a shocking and disturbing experience for so many people. On video, Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes as he took his last breaths.

Many of those who joined in the sustained protests last summer did so for the first time because of what happened to George Floyd and were motivated by their newfound understanding of the pain Black people endure in this country.

Moments after learning of the jury's historic decision though, we learned that police in Columbus, Ohio, had shot and killed yet another Black person: 16-year-old Ma'Khia Bryant. Justice is not easy, and we know that because of our collective suffering through the killings of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Breonna Taylor, Philando Castile, Daunte Wright and so many more.

I know that because I have been an activist participating in the civil rights movement and I have dealt with the issue of police abuse for many decades.

I'm sure there are many in the Los Angeles area that can remember my confrontations with Daryl Gates who, at the time, was the chief of the Los Angeles Police Department. I challenged Gates on his department's use of the chokehold that killed far too many. I challenged Gates on his department's use of the battering ram and, of course, I challenged him on the brutal police beating of Rodney King.

It is clear that I am not new to protest and I am not new to challenge and confrontation.

Over this past year, our young people have shown the world the level of dedication that is required to achieve even the smallest of triumphs, and the courage and tenacity they've displayed despite the setbacks has inspired me. I traveled to Minnesota to be with other members of Congress, civil rights leaders and other local officials to give support to the families affected by police violence, and to stand in solidarity with the young people protesting—many of whom are understandably traumatized by the killings that are taking place at the hands of police officers in this country.

I attended a peaceful rally to demonstrate my support in this fight to get justice for people of color who are violated and killed day in and day out. While there, I was asked: Ms. Waters, what do we do if we don't get a guilty verdict? What should protesters do? I responded: "We got to stay on the street. And we've got to get more active, we've got to get more confrontational." Confronting injustice has been my life's work.

By **MAXINE WATERS**

Los Angeles Times



Maxine Waters, D-Calif., has been a member of Congress since 1991.

Now, because of who I am, the right wing and members of Congress who subscribe to the views of groups like QAnon, the Oath Keepers, the Proud Boys and the KKK have targeted me. Those very people have done so to divert attention from the fact that they aided and abetted a violent, domestic terrorist insurrection led by Donald Trump.

To target me and say that I was violent or encouraging violence is a blatant distortion of the truth.

I am nonviolent.

In a 1993 essay, ahead of the verdict in the federal civil rights trial of the officers who brutally beat Rodney King, I wrote to our community and I implored our young people to be responsible. I implored them to be about life and not about death. I cautioned them that we may not get justice and that if that were to be the case, we still must not endanger our lives or the lives of others.

Anybody who knows me or has seen the way I stand up for my community knows that I am nonviolent. In the same way that Martin Luther King Jr. created Project C, Project Confrontation, during the civil rights movement to further our march toward freedom, I am an advocate for peace and fairness and justice. Project Confrontation was not about violence, but about confronting the injustices in our society by letting our voice be heard and our presence be felt.

The fact of the matter is that Chauvin was found guilty of murder, not because of any one person's opinion, but because the prosecution put on a great case and implored the jury to believe their own eyes.

I am hopeful that police chiefs will take more responsibility and I am hopeful that city councils and mayors who oversee police budgets will understand that they can no longer let their fear of police unions and losing elections stop them from moving us toward a better future.

I am hopeful that the police killings of Black people can be stopped. This is my solemn wish, and this is my prayer.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Is an irrevocable trust right for you?

Trusts come in many shapes and sizes depending on your goals. Some avoid probate. Others reduce or eliminate certain types of tax. And still others can shield assets from lawsuits. But what is right for you will depend on your circumstances.

Trusts generally fall into two categories: Revocable and irrevocable. Revocable trusts can be freely amended or ended. And, generally, you'll retain significant control of the trust and its assets. Irrevocable trusts, by contrast, are difficult to change or terminate. Plus, you'll largely give up control of the trust and its assets to a trustee.

At this point, you're probably thinking that irrevocable trusts sound like a bad deal. After all, few people want to give up control of their money or property. And even less people want to lose the ability to amend their trust as circumstances change.

So, why would anyone want an irrevocable trust? Because irrevocable trusts offer four advantages that revocable trusts cannot.

The first advantage is asset protection. In other words, if you lose a lawsuit, assets held by a revocable trust will be at risk. But if those same assets were in an irrevocable trust, then they would normally be safe. This kind of trust is frequently known as an asset protection trust. These trusts, in turn, are typically located in jurisdictions with favorable laws like Nevada and South Dakota—and, hopefully soon, the CNMI.

But is asset protection worth the cost of setting up and maintaining an irrevocable trust? It depends. For most people, probably not. But if you are an architect or surgeon, you may want to set up an asset protection trust because the likelihood that you'll lose a big-dollar lawsuit at some point is much higher than the average person.

The second reason people like irrevocable trusts is for tax planning. Revocable trusts generally offer no tax advantages. But irrevocable trusts provide options for reducing your taxes, especially estate tax, which maxes out at 40%. Popular trusts

for doing so include irrevocable life insurance trusts, grantor retained annuity trusts, charitable remainder trusts, and charitable lead trusts.

But just like asset protection, tax planning is more important for some people than others. Currently, the estate tax only applies to individuals worth over \$11.7 million. So, few people need to worry about it. But, at the same time, this number changes frequently and is much more likely to plummet than go up.

The third reason to choose an irrevocable trust over a revocable one is to maximize government benefits. To qualify for Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income, for instance, you cannot own or receive too much money. Otherwise, you won't qualify for the program. Or, if you are already part of the program, you'll lose future benefits.

Consider an example. Let's say you are on Medicaid and then your father passed away. As a result, you inherited a little money. That inheritance could knock you out of the program even if the inheritance is relatively small because the income and asset limits for government benefits is low.

A common way to address this situation is through a Medicaid trust. The idea is to transfer many of your assets into an irrevocable trust long before you apply for government benefits, and then have an independent trustee control the trust and its assets. That way you don't own or control the assets and, therefore, can truthfully omit that money and property when disclosing your income and assets to the government.

But while these kinds of trusts often work, there are no guarantees. The reality is that the rules surrounding this situation are constantly changing. And the trend is for jurisdictions to make it harder for people to use irrevocable trusts to bend income and asset limits.

A final reason people like irrevocable trusts is the control and protection they offer beyond the grave. That is, an irrevocable trust allows you to create instructions that the trustee must fol-

FINE PRINT

By **JORDAN SUNDELL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer. His practice primarily focuses on business, real estate, estate planning, and asset protection. You can find his columns here every other Tuesday as well as on The Fine Print on Facebook. You can contact Mr. Sundell via this newspaper at editor@saipantribune.com or 235-6397/235-2440.

low even though you are gone. Worried that your son won't finish college? Write an instruction that if they don't graduate, they will get a smaller chunk of the trust assets. Concerned that your kids are not ready to receive a chunk of money? Then instruct the trustee to distribute the money in smaller dollops at the ages of 25, 30, and 35. Nervous that your daughter will get divorced, thus leading to her ex getting half of the money that you planned to give your daughter? Then have the trustee send money in regular intervals rather than all at once. That way, if your daughter gets divorced, then any trust money distributed after the divorce will never make it to the ex.

There are many kinds of trust to choose from. The right one will depend on your situation. For many people a revocable living trust is all they'll need. But if any of the advantages discussed here apply to you, then you may want to investigate setting up an irrevocable trust with an experienced estate-planning attorney.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

Medicaid policy: An unhealthy approach

When it comes to health care, the Biden administration has a clear goal: to strip away state flexibility and consolidate greater federal control—so much so that it's willing to nullify settled agreements that the government has had with many states.

Upon taking office, the president issued an Executive Order directing the Department of Health and Human Services to review existing Medicaid policies to determine which should be suspended, revised, or rescinded. It also sent letters to states notifying them that any previous agreements related to the process of reviewing waivers no longer applied, thus fast-tracking the process for the federal government to rescind state agreements.

Last month, the Biden administration took action to strip state policymakers of their ability to help able-bodied, low-income individuals either work, volunteer, or prepare to work in exchange for getting taxpayer funded health care benefits through Medicaid. It sent letters to states with approved or pending work requirement agreements notifying them that the work requirement provisions of those agreements were no longer supported by the

administration and under further review.

Two states, Arkansas and New Hampshire, have received official notice that their agreements on integrating work into Medicaid are null and void. Numerous other states still await their fate.

The principle of integrating work as a condition of receiving welfare benefits is not new. As a matter of fact, work requirements have been part of the welfare infrastructure for decades. Yet, despite a steady decline in poverty since the principle was adopted as part of overhauling the welfare system in the 1990s, reversing this principle appears to be part of a larger effort to remove work as condition of receiving welfare benefits across the board.

In Medicaid, the impact goes beyond undermining the principle of work. It also undermines the principle of state flexibility. State flexibility in Medicaid is important. Medicaid is a need-based government welfare program that provides health care services to certain low-income individuals. The federal-state partnership of Medicaid gives states the latitude to design their Medicaid program in ways to address the unique needs in their states and prevents the program from morphing into another federally controlled program.

Most recently, the Biden administration took another unprecedented step in rescinding a key element of Texas's long-standing Medicaid waiver, which the Trump administration extended for 10 years. This waiver allowed Texas to use Medicaid dollars to compensate providers for serving the uninsured. While the Biden administration's rationale for the Texas repeal is on process grounds, some observers suggest the real reason behind this effort is to pressure Texas to expand their Medicaid as outlined under the Affordable Care Act.

It remains unclear how far the administration will go to void other state policies they disagree with—even those that were supported under the Obama administration. For example, the Obama administration agreed to allow states to increase cost sharing, integrate account-style plans, and modify benefit packages in Medicaid based on categories of enrollees. Such flex-

By **NINA OWCHARENKO SCHAEFER**

Tribune News Service



Nina Owcharenko Schaefer is a senior research fellow in health policy at The Heritage Foundation.

ibility may no longer be available to states moving forward and those states with existing waivers with such provisions may also be at risk of a receiving a termination notice.

By design, Medicaid waivers are intended to allow states to experiment with different approaches to the delivery of care. Rescinding existing waivers is inappropriate and should be reversed. These aggressive actions by the Biden administration are an attack on state experimentation and part of a broader effort to consolidate policy decisions in Washington and undermine state flexibility.

These unprecedented actions open Pandora's Box and create uncertainty for all states moving forward. Such actions have chilling effect at the states level and only fuel concerns that this administration has set its sights on further paving the way for a more seamless transition to a full-blown single payer health care system.

What's really needed is not a federal, one-size-fits-all model, but a more flexible Medicaid model that allows states to adapt their Medicaid programs to the diverse and changing needs of their citizens. This will also require addressing more fundamental challenges facing the program, including preserving eligibility for those in need, allowing benefits to match the needs of beneficiaries more precisely, and restructuring the financing to target resources and dollars more effectively.

We already know top-down, federal micro-management isn't healthy. It's time for a second opinion.

BIDEN






From Page 8

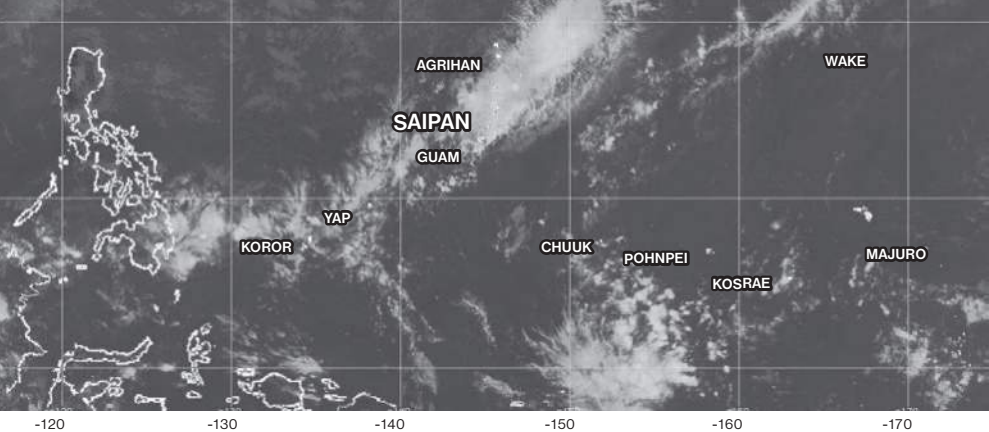
challenge for the president domestically. Republicans, following the lead of former President Donald Trump, balk at such significant and expensive changes in the U.S. so long as other countries—especially economic rival China—do not make them too.

That's foolish. The science is clear that human activity is propelling climate change, and the costs of delaying an effective response run well into the trillions of dollars. And historically, the U.S. has been the largest contributor to carbon emissions—it is what powered our industrial rise and wealth.

It's clear the U.S. must lead by act and moral example, and bring the rest of the world with us.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly sunny. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds becoming east around 10 mph in the afternoon.		Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:16 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Widespread showers and thunderstorms are seen across the CNMI and the far northern islands with decreasing coverage toward Guam and Rota. Latest surface analysis shows a broad region of low-level convergence of south-southwest winds over and east of the Marianas and southwest to west winds west of the islands. Recent MIMIC TPW shows an `atmospheric river` of moisture lifting up from Yap and across the Marianas, roughly aligned with the island chain. Buoys indicate agitated seas hovering between 9 and 10 feet, a combination of several different swell elements from distant storm systems.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87 79 °F	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86 78 °F	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	89 71 °F	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86 80 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 78 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:50 AM	6:44 PM
Wednesday	-	6:39 AM	7:48 PM
Thursday	-	7:32 AM	8:54 PM
Friday	-	8:29 AM	10:00 PM
Saturday	-	9:29 AM	11:03 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	68 57 °F	
Beijing	Sunny	75 47 °F	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	81 72 °F	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85 71 °F	
London	Sunny	53 35 °F	
Los Angeles	Sunny	82 63 °F	
Manila	Sunny	95 80 °F	
Melbourne	Windy	54 49 °F	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	83 74 °F	
New York	Cloudy	62 57 °F	
Osaka	Rain	65 55 °F	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	54 33 °F	
Pusan	Cloudy	74 52 °F	
Rome	Windy	69 57 °F	
Salem	Light Rain	54 43 °F	
San Francisco	Cloudy	62 53 °F	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	67 43 °F	
Tokyo	Cloudy	68 55 °F	
Washington, DC	Overcast	68 57 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:28 AM	Low Tide	0.63	
7:15 AM	High Tide	2.12	
1:58 PM	Low Tide	-0.00	
8:22 PM	High Tide	2.13	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6		UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam		UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5		UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5	
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,		UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>									

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sat	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sun	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sat	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sun	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
GUAM TO ROTA				2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

AE Ice Cream Rolls reopens at Sugar King Park

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

After being closed for more than two years, AE Ice Cream Rolls is back at Sugar King Park just in time for Saipan's notoriously hot summer.

One of the island's favorite dessert shops has been closed since 2018 following the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu and water issues at the location.

Owner Vincent Shane Camacho said AE Ice Cream Rolls launched in 2017 and is one of the first businesses that opened at Sugar King Park, the concession stands of which are handled by the Saipan Mayor's Office.

"We closed after opening for eight months due to



water issues that needed to be fixed and prior to that Yutu happened," he told

Saipan Tribune.

He said he named AE Ice Cream Roll after his daughters' names—Aniyah Emma and Ayyree Elise. Not coincidentally, Camacho said both of them love ice cream.

So, after more than a two-year wait, Camacho said AE Ice Cream Roll is just happy to reopen again and serve the local dessert-loving community.

"We feel awesome. When we were closed we had a lot of our regular and new customers asking when we will reopen. We're just happy to welcome our returning regular customers and new ones every time we open our store," he said.

With the reopening comes a fresh and hip menu for AE Ice Cream Roll, which includes, among others, Mangonada.

"Our new item is called Mangonada. It's a blended frozen beverage that combine

sweet, tart, and savory authentic Mexican flavors in a unique drinking experience. Our Mangonada swirls combine the bright, tropical flavor of mango fruit with a salty and tart taste of chamoy and a spicy kick from the Tajin. Since we introduced it on our menu, it has been a hot-selling new item," said Camacho.

Chamoy is a variety of savory sauces and condiments in Mexican cuisine made from pickled fruit, while Tajin is a brand of Mexican seasoning mix.

Even before their hiatus, AE Ice Cream Roll has been an island favorite among Saipan foodies and Camacho attributes this to the quality of their ice cream and the fact they don't scrimp on toppings.

"What makes us different is that our ice cream is freshly made on a flat pan that is be-

AE Ice Cream Rolls is located inside the Sugar King Park and is open only on Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:30pm to 6:30pm; Saturdays from 2pm to 6pm; and Sundays only on private payday weeks from 2pm to 6pm.

MARK RABAGO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AE Ice Cream Rolls' Tutti Frutti flavor.

low -20 degrees. It's freezing cold! It is made from liquid form to ice cream with added flavored ingredients then rolled into form, not scooped."

AE Ice Cream Roll has over 20 flavors, but currently they're only serving 10 of their top-selling flavors. These include Monkey

See Monkey Do, which is fresh bananas and Nutella mixed with house-made cream base; Smores Please, which is Graham crackers and chocolate topped with campfire-type marshmallows on a stick; Choco Oreo, which is, of course, Oreo and chocolate mixed with house-made cream base; and Tutti Frutti, which is fruity pebbles cereal mixed with

house-made cream base.

"Our mission is simple. We want everyone to try our ice cream. For us, it's not just about serving ice cream, it's about creating a revolution. If you're looking for new and exciting flavors of ice cream, check us out for a delicious experience. You won't regret it!" said Camacho.

AE Ice Cream Roll is open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:30pm to 6:30pm; Saturdays from 2pm to 6pm; and Sundays only on private payday weeks from 2pm to 6pm. For more information, call 287-6111 or Facebook message or Whatsapp them at "AE Ice Cream Roll." They're also on Instagram "aeicecream-rolls" and currently accept cash and Paypal.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AE Ice Cream Rolls' Monkey See Monkey Do flavor.

Survey: Business economists more optimistic about US growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—The accelerated rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, along with the Biden administration's rescue aid policies, have brightened the outlook for the U.S. economy as it extends its recovery from the pandemic recession.

That is the view of a majority of business economists that emerges from a survey being released Monday by the National Association for Business Economics. The results, based on responses from 97 NABE members earlier this month, found that two-thirds say the vaccines and the administration's policies have increased their optimism.

An equally large proportion say the vaccine rollout and a new presidential administration have had a

positive effect on their companies' sales and hiring, up from only 37% who said so in a survey done in January.

In addition, 35% of the economists say they think the economy will grow at a robust rate of at least 6% over the next year. Only 4% of the economists had predicted growth that strong in the January survey.

In a further sign of their brightening outlook, nearly two-thirds of the business economists reported that their companies' sales had increased over the past three months. That's up from just over half of the respondents who said so in January.

The NABE's survey results are consistent with rising expectations, at the

Federal Reserve and among analysts in general, that the U.S. economy has begun a strong recovery that should accelerate hiring and sustain a healthy pace of growth.

"Conditions continued to improve during the first quarter of 2021," said Manuel Balmaseda, president of the NABE and chief economist at CEMEX, a multi-national manufacturer of cement products. "This optimism is broad-based by sector."

The survey found that 43% of the respondents said that sales at their companies were now between 76% and 100% of their levels before the pandemic erupted last year. An additional 27% said their companies' sales now exceeded pre-crisis levels.

America's gas-fueled vehicles imperil Biden's climate goals

DETROIT (AP)—For President Joe Biden to reach his ambitious goal of slashing America's greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030, huge reductions would have to come from somewhere other than one of the worst culprits: auto tailpipes.

That's because there are just too many gas-powered passenger vehicles in the United States—roughly 279 million—to replace them in less than a decade, experts say. In a typical year, automakers sell about 17 million vehicles nationwide. Even if every one of the new ones were electric, it would take more than 16 years to replace the whole fleet.

What's more, vehicles now

remain on America's roads for an average of nearly 12 years before they're scrapped, which means that gas-fueled vehicles will predominate for many years to come.

"We're not going to be able to meet the target with new-car sales only," said Aakash Arora, a managing director with Boston Consulting Group and an author of a study on electric vehicle adoption. "The fleet is too big."

So unless government incentives could somehow persuade a majority of Americans to scrap their cars and trucks and buy electric vehicles, reducing tailpipe emissions by anything close to 50% would take far longer than

the Biden timetable. Last year, fewer than 2% of new vehicles sold in the United States were fully electric.

"If every new vehicle sold today was an electric vehicle and it was entirely powered by renewable energy overnight, it would take 10 years or more for us to achieve a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions," said Chris Atkinson, a professor of mechanical engineering and director of smart mobility at Ohio State University.

Which means that other sectors of the economy would have to slash greenhouse gas emissions deeply enough to make up the shortfall in the auto industry.

Nation

Harris to tell UN body it's time to prep for next pandemic

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Kamala Harris will make the case before United Nations members on Monday that now is the time for global leaders to begin putting the serious work into how they will respond to the next global pandemic.

The virtual address, Harris' second to a U.N. body since her inauguration, will come as the United States makes progress on vaccinating the public and much of the world struggles to acquire vaccines.

"At the same time that the world works to get through this pandemic, we also know that we must prepare for the next," Harris will say, according to excerpts of the speech obtained by The Associated Press. The speech will be co-hosted by U.N. permanent representatives of Argentina, Japan, Norway and South Africa.

The Biden administration will mark its first 100 days in office this week. President Joe Biden is scheduled to address Congress on Wednesday and is certain to highlight the



AP
In this Friday, April 23, 2021, file photo, Vice President Kamala Harris speaks at the IBEW Training Center in Concord, N.H.

attention. The steps include improving accessibility to health systems, investing in science, health workers and the well-being of women, and surging capacity for personal protective equipment and vaccine and test manufacturing.

Harris says much has been learned over the last year about pandemic preparedness and response but that it would be unwise to rest easy.

"We have been reminded that the status quo is not nearly good enough, and that innovation is indeed the path forward," Harris says.

Biden's ambassador to the U.N., Linda Thomas-Greenfield, is also scheduled to deliver remarks at Monday's virtual event.

For 3 ex-cops, will blaming Chauvin for Floyd's death work?

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—With Derek Chauvin convicted of murder in George Floyd's death, activists and the Floyd family are turning their attention to this summer's trial for the other three officers involved in his May 2020 arrest.

All three have already sought to deflect responsibility to Chauvin, by far the most senior officer on the scene.

Thomas Lane, J. Kueng and Tou Thao face trial in August on charges of aiding and abetting both second-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill ordered that they be tried together, but separately from Chauvin, to reduce the number of people in the courtroom amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the three weigh their strategies, legal experts say they are sure to be watching what kind of prison time Chauvin gets at his June 16 sentencing—as much as 30 years, though possibly less. Minnesota law sets the same penalties for aiding and abetting murder or manslaughter as for the act itself.

They'll also be mindful that it took jurors less than 24 hours to find Chauvin guilty on all charges. That could ratchet up pressure to consider a plea deal.

"The factual differences between Chauvin and the other three are what should drive this," said Tom Heffelfinger, a former U.S. attorney

for Minnesota. headway his administration has made in responding to the worst public health crisis in the

U.S. in more than a century.

Harris, according to the excerpts, will broadly outline defense. Body camera video shows he asked the other officers if they should turn Floyd on his side—and Chauvin said no. Local defense attorney Joe Friedberg said the evidence at Chauvin's trial showed that Lane was "trying to use as little force as possible" before Chauvin arrived and took charge.

Kueng can be heard reporting to Chauvin at one point that he could not find Floyd's pulse. "They're raising questions about what was happening and whether they should be doing something different," said another local defense attorney, Brock Hunter. "It's not nearly as clear-cut as I think the evidence against Chauvin was."

But both Chauvin and Kueng maintained their restraint, and body camera video shows Kueng holding up one of Floyd's handcuffed hands—an action that prosecution medical experts testified made it even harder for Floyd to breathe.

Thao can argue that it was crowd control, keeping an agitated group of about 15 onlookers at a safe distance, and that he largely had his back to the other officers and Floyd. "His defense could be, 'I was just present and it takes more than presence to make a crime,'" Heffelfinger said.

But one of the onlookers, Thao specifically ordered to

stand back was Genevieve Hansen, a Minneapolis firefighter who can be heard on video pleading repeatedly for officers to check Floyd's pulse. Hansen cried on the witness stand at Chauvin's trial as she described her frustration at being prevented from coming to Floyd's aid.

The quick conviction for Chauvin spurred speculation about plea deals. Heffelfinger said prosecutors may be open to that because they're aware of the potential weaknesses in the cases against the three. "Prosecutors know this stuff, so this is a good time for all parties to consider settlement over the next two or three months," he said.

Gaertner said prosecutors will feel pressure not to strike a plea deal that could be seen by activists as letting the officers off lightly. But she said she hopes they do consider deals that would avert a trial, particularly due to the stress and expense of the just-completed trial that transformed parts of Minneapolis into a militarized zone.

"Clearly these three defendants are significantly less culpable than Chauvin," she said. "And that should be taken into account. Another trial is going to be very disruptive, costly and I'm not sure that that's in the best interests of the public."

But Friedberg said he doesn't expect any deals.

Election conspiracies live on with audit by Arizona GOP

PHOENIX (AP)—Months after former President Donald Trump's election defeat, legislative Republicans in Arizona are challenging the outcome as they embark on an unprecedented effort to audit the results in the state's most populous county.

The state Senate used its subpoena power to take possession of all 2.1 million ballots in Maricopa County and the machines that counted them, along with computer hard drives full of data. They've handed the materials over to Cyber Ninjas, a Florida-based consultancy with no election experience run by a man who has shared unfounded conspiracy theories claiming the official 2020 presidential election results are illegitimate.

The process is alarming election professionals who fear the auditors are not up to the complex task and will severely undermine faith in democracy.

"I think the activities that are taking place here are reckless and they in no way, shape or form resemble an audit," said Jennifer Morrell, a partner at Elections Group, a consulting firm advising state and local election officials, which has not worked in Arizona.

Conspiracy theories about the election have proliferated across the country even before President Joe Biden's

victory but have had particular staying power in Arizona, which flipped to the Democratic column for just the second time in 72 years.

Trump on Friday predicted the audit would reveal fraud and would prompt similar reviews in other states he lost.

"Thank you State Senators and others in Arizona for commencing this full forensic audit," the former president said in a statement. "I predict the results will be startling!"

Cyber Ninjas began a manual recount of ballots Friday, a day after Democrats asked a judge to put an end to the audit. The judge ordered the company to follow ballot and voter secrecy laws and demanded they turn over written procedures and training manuals before a hearing Monday on the Democrats' request. He offered to pause the count over the weekend if Democrats posted a \$1 million bond to cover added expenses, but the party declined.

On a since-deleted Twitter account, Cyber Ninjas owner Doug Logan used hashtags and shared memes popular with people promoting unsupported allegations casting doubt on Biden's victory.

Logan insists that his personal views are irrelevant because he's running a transparent audit with video streamed online.

Asia

Virus 'swallowing' people in India; crematoriums overwhelmed

NEW DELHI (AP)—With life-saving oxygen in short supply, families are left on their own to ferry people sick with COVID-19 from hospital to hospital in search of treatment as India is engulfed in a devastating surge of infections. Too often, their efforts end in mourning.

On social media and in television footage, desperate relatives plead for oxygen outside hospitals or weep in the street for loved ones who died waiting for treatment.

One woman mourned the death of her younger brother, aged 50. He was turned away by two hospitals and died waiting to be seen at a third, gasping after his oxygen tank ran out and no replacements were to be had.

She blamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for the crisis.

"He has lit funeral pyres in every house," she cried in a video shot by The Caravan magazine.

For the fourth straight day, India on Sunday set a global daily record of new coronavirus infections, spurred by an insidious new variant that emerged here. The surge has undermined the government's premature claims of victory over the pandemic.

The 349,691 new infections brought India's total to more than 16.9 million, behind only the United States. The Health Ministry reported another 2,767 deaths in the past 24 hours, pushing India's fatalities to 192,311.

The death toll could be a huge undercount, as suspected cases are not included, and many COVID-19 deaths are being attributed to underlying conditions.

The unfolding crisis is most visceral in India's overwhelmed graveyards and crematoriums, and in heartbreaking images of gasping patients dying on their way to hospitals due to lack of oxygen.

Burial grounds in the capital New Delhi are running out of space. Bright, glowing funeral pyres light up the night sky in other badly hit cities.

In the central city of Bhopal, some crematoriums have

increased their capacity from dozens of pyres to more than 50. Yet there are still hours-long waits.

At the city's Bhadbhada Vishram Ghat crematorium, workers said they cremated more than 110 people on Saturday, even as government figures in the entire city of 1.8 million put the total number of virus deaths at just 10.

"The virus is swallowing our city's people like a mon-

ster," said Mamtesh Sharma, an official at the site.

The unprecedented rush of bodies has forced the crematorium to skip individual ceremonies and exhaustive rituals that Hindus believe release the soul from the cycle of rebirth.

"We are just burning bodies as they arrive," said Sharma. "It is as if we are in the middle of a war."

The head gravedigger at

New Delhi's largest Muslim cemetery, where 1,000 people have been buried during the pandemic, said more bodies are arriving now than last year. "I fear we will run out of space very soon," said Mohammad Shameem.

The situation is equally grim at unbearably full hospitals, where desperate people are dying in line, sometimes on the roads outside, waiting to see doctors.

Indonesia says 53 crew of lost sub are dead, wreckage found

BANYUWANGI, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's military on Sunday officially said all 53 crew members from a submarine that sank and broke apart last week are dead, and that search teams had located the vessel's wreckage on the ocean floor.

The grim announcement comes a day after Indonesia said the submarine was considered sunk, not merely missing, but did not explicitly say whether the crew was dead. Officials previously said the KRI Nanggala 402's oxygen supply would have run out early Saturday, three days after the vessel went missing off the resort island of Bali.

"We received underwater pictures that are confirmed as parts of the submarine, including its rear vertical rudder, anchors, outer pressure body, embossed dive rudder and other ship parts," military chief Hadi Tjahjanto told reporters in Bali on Sunday.

"With this authentic evidence, we can declare that KRI Nanggala 402 has sunk and all the crew members are dead," Tjahjanto said.

An underwater robot equipped with cameras documented the lost submarine lying in at least three pieces on the ocean floor at a depth of 838 meters (2,750 feet), said Adm. Yudo Margono, the navy's chief of staff.

That's much deeper than the submarine's collapse depth of 200 meters (655 feet), at which point water pressure would be greater than the hull could withstand, according to

earlier navy statements.

The cause of the submarine's sinking remains uncertain. The navy previously said an electrical failure could have left the submarine unable to execute emergency procedures to resurface.

Margono said emergency survival suits that are normally kept in boxes were found floating underwater, apparently indicating the crew may have tried to put them on during the emergency.

The navy plans to eventually lift the wreckage and recover the dead, although the depth of the water poses a significant challenge, he said.

The wreckage is located 1,500 meters (yards) to the south of the site where the submarine last dove off Bali's northern coast, Margono said. Photos of the debris were presented at the press conference.

The underwater robot deployed by Singaporean vessel MV Swift Rescue provided the images, while the Indonesian vessel KRI Rigel had scanned the area where the submarine was believed to have sunk using multibeam sonar and a magnetometer, Tjahjanto said.

Indonesia's President Joko Widodo delivered his condolences in a televised address Sunday.

"All Indonesians convey deep sorrow for this tragedy, especially to all of the families of the submarine's crew. They are the best sons of the nation, patriots guarding the sovereignty of the country," Widodo said.

In celebration of his new life †LUIS TAITINGFONG CAMACHO

"Luis Abarus"

Date of Birth: November 17, 1934

Date of Death: April 20, 2021

In his new life, he now joins his:

Mother: †Juana Pangelinan Taitingfong Camacho
Father: †Jose Tudela Camacho
Mother-in-law: †Maria Santos Lujan Chong Lizama
Father-in-law: †Jose Chong

His memories will live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Tomasa Lujan Chong Camacho
Children: Renita c. Camacho & Peter C. Togawa
Nacresia Lynn C. & Raymond Palacios
Jashlie Nicole C. & Derik Reyes
(Kaecia DLC. Reyes & Zachary Sasamoto, Derik Junior DLC. Reyes, Dentun DLC. Reyes, Jordan C. DLGuerrero, Jayvin Derik C. Reyes, Cali Yvonne C. Reyes, Carah Jade C. Reyes, Aiyana Gabrielle C. Reyes, Ariya Tomasa C. Reyes)
Jadrien Nathaniel Camacho
Jonathan Kyle Camacho & Phoebe Nekaifes
(Saquon Kyle Ighimalsor N. Camacho)

Janika Kayda C. Ogo, Raylan Carmelo, Raymond Jr., Logan Drake, and Francisco Anthony T. Palacios.

Brothers and Sister and Spouses:

†Leon T./†Visitation M. Camacho and Family
†Vicente T./Rita D. Camacho and Family
†Antonio T./†Maria B. Camacho and Family
†Isabel T. Camacho and Family
Juan T./†Maria B. Camacho and Family

Sister & Brother-in-Law:

†Jesus L./†Josepha S. Chong and Family
†Ernesta C./†Lorenzo M. Ayuyu and Family
†Dr. Jose L./†Ramona S. Chong
†Manuel L./†Esperanza C. Chong and Family
†Joaquin L./†Ana T. Chong and Family
†Francisco L. Chong
†Luis L. Chong
†Emilia Chong Sablan & Miguel E. Sablan and Family

Caregiver: Leticia R. Agbayani

He will be missed by numerous Nieces, Nephews, Godchildren, Relatives, and Friends.

Daily Masses is being offered daily at

Kristo Rai Church – 6:00 a.m., Mt. Carmel Cathedral – 6:00 a.m., Sta. Remedio Church – 6:00 p.m., San Vicente: Monday – 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday – 6:00 a.m., St. Jude – 6:00 p.m., San Antonio – 6:00 p.m.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021. He will be escorted from the CHCC Morgue to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 8:30 a.m. and followed by the Responso services and Rosary. Viewing will start at 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Burial follows at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Please follow COVID-19 Protocols:
Wear facial mask at all times and observe social distancing.

Thank You – Si Yu'us Maase

TOMASA CHONG CAMACHO and Family

World

Death toll in fire at Iraqi COVID hospital over 80

BAGHDAD (AP)—The death toll from a massive fire at a Baghdad hospital for coronavirus patients rose to at least 82 Sunday as anxious families searched for missing relatives and the government suspended key health officials for alleged negligence.

The flames, described by one witness as “volcanoes of fire,” swept through the intensive care unit of the Ibn al-Khatib Hospital, which tends exclusively to COVID-19 patients with severe symptoms. Officials said the blaze, which also injured 110 people, was set off by an exploding oxygen cylinder.

Nurse Maher Ahmed was called to the scene late Saturday to help evacuate patients.

“I could not have imagined it would be a massive blaze like that,” he said. The flames overwhelmed the hospital’s second floor isolation hall within three to four minutes of the oxygen cylinder exploding, he said. “Volcanoes of fire.”

Most of those killed suffered severe burns, he said. Others were overcome by smoke, unwilling to leave behind relatives hooked up to ventilators. Ahmed said the

patients could not be moved. “They would have minutes to live without oxygen.”

He said he and others watched helplessly as one patient struggled to breathe amid the smoke.

Widespread negligence on the part of health officials is to blame for the fire, Iraq’s prime minister, Mustafa al-Kadhimi, said Sunday. Following a special cabinet meeting to discuss the blaze, the government suspended key officials, including the health minister and the governor of Baghdad province. Other officials, including the hospital director, were dismissed from their posts.

It took firefighters and civil defense teams until early Sunday to put out the flames.

Among the dead were at least 28 patients on ventilators, tweeted Ali al-Bayati, a spokesman of the country’s independent Human Rights Commission, a semi-official body.

Paramedics carried the bodies, many burned beyond recognition, to al-Zafaraniya Hospital, where Ahmed said forensics teams will attempt to identify them by matching DNA samples to relatives.

By midday Sunday, relatives

were still searching anxiously for loved ones.

“Please, two of my relatives are missing. ... I am going to die (without news about them),” posted a young woman on social media after a fruitless search for her family members. “I hope someone can help us find Sadi Abdul Kareem and Samir Abdul Kareem, they were in the ICU.”

Rokya Kareem, 30, was looking frantically for her friend Riyam Rahman, a pharmacist, who was visiting her mother at the hospital. Rahman’s mother, Basima, was admitted to the hospital 45 days ago with complications from COVID-19.

“All we know is they were in the room next to where the fire started,” she said. “Her phone is switched off, and her family has gone to every hospital trying to find them.”

The fire happened as Iraq grapples with a severe second wave of the coronavirus pandemic. Daily virus cases now average around 8,000, the highest level since Iraq began recording infection rates early last year. At least 15,200 people have died of coronavirus in Iraq among at least 100,000 confirmed cases.

Chad military council: No talks with rebels who killed Deby

N’DJAMENA, Chad (AP)—Chad’s military transitional government said Sunday it would not negotiate with the rebels blamed for killing the country’s president of three decades, raising the specter that the armed fighters might press ahead with their threats to attack the capital.

A spokesman for the rebel group known as the Front for Change and Concord in Chad told The Associated Press that it was now joining forces with other armed groups who oppose President Idriss Deby Itno’s son, Mahamat, taking control of the country following his father’s killing.

In a televised statement, the military spokesman, Gen. Azem Bermandoa Agouma, said the rebels were seeking to collaborate with “several groups of jihadists and traffickers who served as mercenaries in Libya.”

“Faced with this situation that endangers Chad and the stability of the entire sub-region, this is not the time for mediation or negotiation with outlaws,” he said.

The military spokesman

said some of the rebels had escaped in the direction of Chad’s border with Niger and called for Niger’s government to help capture them.

“The defense and security forces launched after them with the support of the air force located the enemy scattered in small groups regrouping in Niger territory,” far from the Chadian capital, he said.

A spokesman for the armed group, Kingabe Ogouzeimi de Tapol, told AP that the rebels had not given up, though he declined to say where the forces were Sunday, citing security reasons.

“There are other armed groups that have joined us,” he said. “We welcome them and we are integrating them into our different battalions.”

The Chadian rebels, known by their French acronym FACT, were based in southern Libya and are believed to have crossed back into Chad earlier this month on election day. Deby, the country’s president since 1990, was easily handed victory based on official results as several leading

opposition politicians did not take part.

However, the military announced the next day that Deby had been mortally wounded while visiting the front lines of the battle against the rebels. His son, Mahamat Idriss Deby, was named head of a military council that plans an 18-month transition toward new elections.

The former colonial power, France, has been careful not to criticize the military’s actions, and French President Emmanuel Macron attended Deby’s funeral last week. Chad is home to a French military base where counterterrorism operations for the region are headquartered. Chad also has supplied critical troops to the U.N. peacekeeping mission in northern Mali.

However, political opposition groups have decried Mahamat Idriss Deby’s appointment as a coup d’etat, saying the president of the National Assembly should have taken over instead. The opposition has called for demonstrations this week to call for a return to civilian rule.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

2022 Hyundai Santa Cruz

compact pickup offers maneuverability, striking looks

(DREW PHILLIPS/HYUNDAI/TNS)
2022 Hyundai Santa Cruz



By **MARK PHELAN**
Detroit Free Press
(TNS)

Hyundai’s long-awaited Santa Cruz pickup has finally broken cover, and it largely stays true to the scene-stealing concept that was a hit at the 2015 North American International Auto show. The production model will measure 195.7 inches long—15 to 17 inches less than midsize pickups like the Ford Ranger, Honda Ridgeline and Toyota Tacoma.

The dramatic looking little truck features a short bed, four-door cab and innovative headlights that seem to vanish into the grille when they’re not on.

The Santa Cruz goes on sale this summer. Hyundai will build it in Montgomery, Alabama, alongside the Tucson compact SUV with which it shares many parts.

Visually, the Santa Cruz stands out. In addition to dramatic and innovative lights, its proportions, particularly bed and hood length and height differ dramatically from other pickups. A steeply raked windshield and rear window add to its unique looks.

2022 Hyundai Santa Cruz available features

- 18- or 20-inch aluminum wheels
- Lockable in-bed storage
- Lockable tonneau cover
- Storage bins under rear seat
- Touch screen
- Bose audio
- Wireless charging
- Wireless Apple CarPlay

and Android Auto

- Remote start
- Remote seat heating or ventilation
- Alerts for unlocked vehicle or open windows

Front- or all-wheel drive

The control panel features a standard 8-inch or optional 10-in. touch screen and what appear to be flat-panel capacitive controls for audio volume, tuning and climate controls. Bose audio is optional.

The rear bench seat flips up to reveal storage bins.

The base model will have a normally aspirated 2.5L four-cylinder engine. An optional turbo is projected to generate more than 275 hp and 310 pound-feet of torque.

Santa Cruzes with the optional eight-speed dual-clutch transmission will have steering wheel paddle shifters.

The base model will have front-wheel drive. An optional three-mode all-wheel drive system varies torque between front and rear axles depending on conditions.

Trucks with the base engine can tow up to 3,500 pounds. The turbo is good for 5,000.

The Santa Cruz’s small size should contribute to parking ease and maneuverability. Hyundai claims a turning radius of just 20 feet, considerably less than midsize pickups.

Standard and optional safety features:

- Forward collision alert and automatic braking
- Pedestrian and cyclist

detection

- Lane keeping assist
- Drowsy driver alert
- Blind spot alert and assist
- Cross traffic alert and assist

Is it a ‘real’ truck?

As with previous compact pickups, capability will likely be the Santa Cruz’s greatest challenge. The ability to fit big items and heavy loads in the bed is a key performance criterion for many pickup buyers.

The Santa Cruz’s bed is short, just 48.4 inches long at the floor and 52.1 at the top, due to the cab’s unusual shape. Competing midsize pickups all have beds around five feet long.

Hyundai says the Santa Cruz breaks new ground by combining elements of an SUV and pickup. That’s an overstatement. The small truck uses familiar ingredients in a new recipe in a bid to attract new customers.

The Santa Cruz is likely to compete fairly directly with the more traditionally styled Ford Maverick compact pickup expected to debut later this year.

No other automaker has publicly committed to building pickups this small, but if the Santa Cruz and Maverick succeed, you can count on other brands to follow suit.

Hyundai is taking reservations for Santa Cruzes.

NUTS & BOLTS

2022 Hyundai Santa Cruz at a glance

Five-passenger all-wheel drive compact pickup

■ Engine: 2.5L normally aspirated or turbocharged four-cylinder

■ Estimated output: Nor-

mally aspirated: 190 hp; 180 lb-ft of torque;

■ Turbo: 275+ hp; 310+ lb-ft of torque

■ Transmission: 8-speed torque-converter automatic or dual-clutch automatic

■ Wheelbase: 118.3

inches

■ Length: 195.5

■ Width: 75.0

■ Height: 66.7

■ Bed length: 48.4 (top) 52.1 (floor)

■ Towing: Base model, 3,500 lbs.; turbo, 5,000

Life & Style

Connecting with teens will impact new relationship

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: After I ended a 20-year marriage, I took some time off from relationships and am now back in the dating world. My ex-husband and I never had children.

I recently met a man with two teenagers. He says I am "detached" from children. I am not detached! I just never had experience with them. How do I proceed with this relationship since his kids are very dear to him?

NOT DETACHED

DEAR NOT DETACHED: This man's offspring are no longer "children." They are teenagers, and teens can be complicated. Reach out to them the way you would anyone of any age. Be friendly and show them you are interested in them. If they have a mother in the picture, do not try to "mother" them. See if you share any common interests (sports, music, fashion, etc.), resist the urge to lecture them, and be a good listener.

DEAR ABBY: Back around 1987, a girl asked me to take her to her high school prom. I was several years older, didn't know her well and wanted to say no but couldn't. In the end I stood her up. I don't even remember her name. She worked at a grocery store with my brother.

That was more than 30 years ago. I am married now and have two fine children. I was recently asked what my biggest regret is, and I said standing her up. Not one week has gone by in the last 30 years that I haven't thought about her and wished I could find her and tell her how truly sorry I am.

It's funny. Although I can't remember her name, there's no one from my past that I have thought about more than her. I would give anything to find her and apologize. It haunts me. Any suggestions?

BIGGEST REGRET IN THE SOUTH

DEAR BIGGEST REGRET: What you did to that girl was brutal. Because it's not possible for you to directly offer the apology she deserves, concentrate harder on the present and always try to treat everyone with kindness and sensitivity.

DEAR ABBY: I'd like advice on how to handle a problem that crops up every time family members invite me out to a dinner they are paying for.

I know the rule of etiquette is to order an item that's the same or less than what the host is ordering, but I am often asked to order first. This means I have no idea what the payer's meal will cost. If it means ordering something on the menu other than what I'd rather have—a burger instead of a steak—in that case, should I offer to pay for my own meal? What if they won't hear of taking any money from me? Can I still order the steak since my offer to pay was refused?

LIKES TO FOLLOW THE RULES

DEAR LIKES: A way to get around ordering first might be to say, "I haven't decided yet. I'd like to hear what the others are ordering." However, if you would be uncomfortable doing that, and your hosts won't let you have a separate check, be a gracious guest and enjoy every bite of your steak dinner.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Chloé Zhao's "Nomadland," a wistful portrait of itinerant lives on open roads across the American West, won best picture Sunday at the 93rd Academy Awards, where the China-born Zhao became the first woman of color to win best director and a historically diverse group of winners took home awards.

In the biggest surprise of a socially distanced Oscar ceremony held during the pandemic, best actor went to Anthony Hopkins for his performance in the dementia drama "The Father." The award had been widely expected to go to Chadwick Boseman for his final performance in "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom." The night's last award, it ended the ceremony on a down note, particularly since Hopkins wasn't in attendance.

But the "Nomadland" victory, while widely expected, nevertheless capped the extraordinary rise of Zhao, a lyrical filmmaker whose winning film is just her third, and which—with a budget less than \$5 million and featuring a cast populated by non-professional actors—ranks as one of the most modest-sized movies to win Hollywood's top honor. (Zhao's next film, Marvel's "Eternals," has a budget approximately 40 times that of "Nomadland.")

A plain-spoken meditation on solitude, grief and grit, "Nomadland" stuck a chord in a pandemic-ravaged year. It made for an unlikely Oscar

Italy's Uffizi discovers lost frescoes during COVID shutdown

MILAN (AP)—The Uffizi Gallery in Florence used the winter COVID shutdown to push ahead with renovations, discovering lost frescoes that will greet visitors when the leading repository of Italian Renaissance art reopens on May 4.

Uffizi director Eike Schmidt said the six months of closure were put to good use: renovating 14 new rooms that will open to the public next month, and discovering frescoes that would otherwise have remained hidden.

But he hopes that the most recent reopening—the third during the pandemic—will be the last.

"We very much hope that now we will be able to open stably and without further closures. We hope so for the museum, but we hope it also for the world and for human society," Schmidt said.

The previously hidden frescoes include a life-size figure of a young Cosimo II de' Medici—part of the Renaissance family that commissioned the Uffizi—dating from the 1600s, as well as decorative plant motifs from the 1700s on the walls

'Nomadland' wins best picture at a social distanced Oscars

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER



Producers Frances McDormand, left, and Chloé Zhao, winners of the award for best picture for "Nomadland," pose in the press room at the Oscars on Sunday, April 25, 2021, at Union Station in Los Angeles.

champ: A film about people who gravitate to the margins took center stage.

"I have always found goodness in the people I've met everywhere I went in the world," said Zhao when accepting best director, which Kathryn Bigelow ("The Hurt Locker") was the only previous woman to win. "This is for anyone who has the faith and the courage to hold on to

the goodness in themselves and to hold on the goodness in other no matter how difficult it is to do that."

With a howl, "Nomadland" star Frances McDormand implored people to seek out her film and others on the big screen. Released by the Disney-owned Searchlight Pictures, "Nomadland" premiered at a drive in and debuted in theaters, but found its

largest audience on Hulu.

"Please watch our movie on the largest screen possible," McDormand said. "And one day very, very soon, take everyone you know into a theater, shoulder to shoulder in that dark space, and watch every film that's represented here tonight."

Soon after, McDormand won best actress, too—her third such win. Only Katharine Hepburn, a four-time winner, has won best actress more times.

The most ambitious award show held during the pandemic, the Oscars rolled out a red carpet and tried to restore some glamour to a grim year. For the first time ever, this year's nominees were overwhelmingly seen in the home during a pandemic year that forced theaters to close and prompted radical change in Hollywood.

More women and more actors of color were nominated than ever before, and Sunday brought a litany of records and firsts across many categories, spanning everything from hairstyling to composing to acting. It was, some observers said, a sea change for an awards harshly criticized as "OscarsSoWhite" in recent years, leading the film academy to greatly expand membership.



UFFIZI GALLERY VIA AP

In this photo made available Thursday, April 22, 2021, a full-length and life-size fresco depicting the young Cosimo II de' Medici, with the allegories of Florence and Siena, to be attributed to the painter Bernardino Poccetti (1548-1612) is seen on a wall after renovation works in the underground of the Uffizi Gallery, in Florence, Italy, Friday, April 16, 2021.

and ceiling of nearby rooms.

They are located in the museum's west wing, which is where the new visitors' entrance will be when the Uffizi reopens.

Schmidt said the new entrance facing the Arno River would provide "a glorious introduction" for visitors. Clas-

sic statuary will be added to the entrance in the future.

Workers also completed restoration on new rooms dedicated to 16th Century high and late Renaissance art from central and northern Italy, beyond Tuscany. They complete the sweep through art history

from the Middle Ages with Giotto, to the Renaissance masters Botticelli, Raphael and Michelangelo, beyond to the counter-reformation and Venetian galleries.

"You can now seamlessly walk through, or hike through, art history if you wish to do so," Schmidt said.

Under the Uffizi's new entry system, visitors will buy tickets, deposit coats and bags in the west wing and cross through a courtyard to the east wing, where they will pass through metal detectors and pick up audio guides before starting their rounds of the museum.

The number of visitors at the museum last year dropped to about a quarter of those in 2019 due to the COVID lockdowns in the spring and fall, with some 1.2 million people visiting in 2020, down from 4.4 million a year earlier.

Booking requests have already started coming in for the summer months, which the museum will be able to satisfy now that an opening date is official, Schmidt said.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



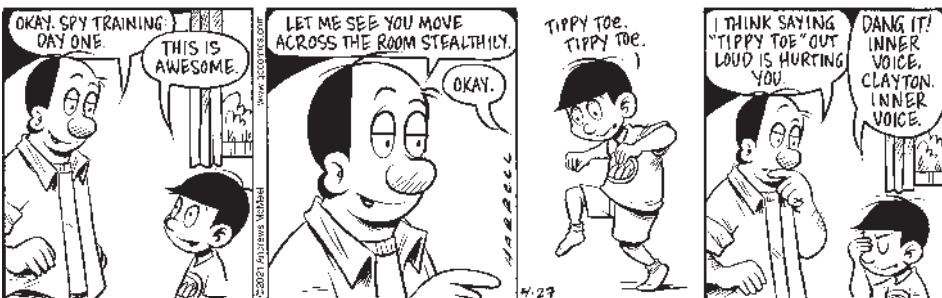
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Wizard's prop
5 Staffer
9 Deli meat
12 Body lotion ingredient
13 "Let's go!"
14 Before
15 Ranch worker
17 Salonga of "Miss Saigon"
18 Consider
19 Perfect
21 Leading man?
24 Soon, poetically
25 Pleased
26 Spiny creature
30 Vegas opener?
31 Radiant glows
32 Guitar's kin
33 Ravenous foodie's cry
35 Peevish fit
36 Med. plan options

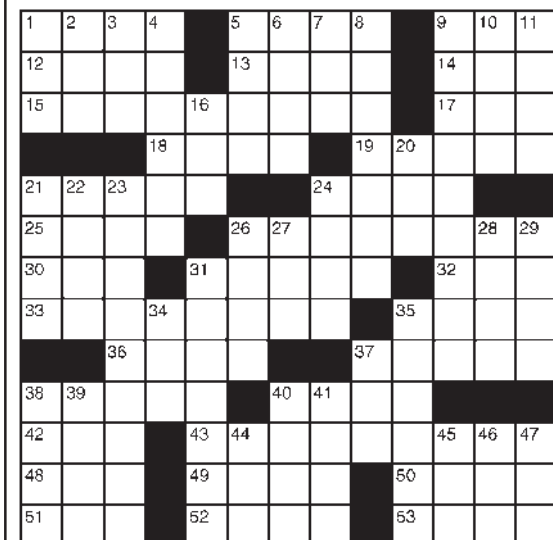
DOWN

1 Nursery
2 Will Smith biopic
3 Fish-fowl link
4 Signed over
5 Rue the
6 Mosque VIP
7 Mafia boss
8 Finales
9 Emmy-winning
10 Location
11 Repast
16 German article
20 Anonymously
21 Wrinkly fruit
22 Bridge coup
23 Diner, maybe
24 An apple
26 Embraces
27 Goof up
28 Tom Joad, for one
29 Understands
31 One more of the same
34 Ms. Thurman
35 Putting on airs
37 Bonfire residue
38 Corp. kingpins
39 Engrossed
40 Waffle brand
41 Lean-to
44 Altar promise
45 Thanks-giving dessert
46 Ecol. watchdog
47 Snake's warning

Solution time: 22 mins.

I	C	A	N	B	J	C	G	U	R	L
M	I	L	E	H	I	G	H	O	N	U
P	A	S	T	I	C	H	E	A	I	L
S	T	U	D	P	A	S	T	E	L	S
E	S	T	E	E	D	I	N	E		
C	O	R	T	R	I	F	F	O	R	
P	A	S	T	O	R	S	S	T	U	N
S	H	E	R	P	A	S	T	A		
H	O	P	I	P	A	S	T	R	A	M
O	L	I	N	S	I	T	U	A	T	E
P	E	C	K	E	D	S	B	E	A	M

Yesterday's answer 4-27



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jenna-Louise Coleman, 35; Francis Capra, 38; Ari Graynor, 38; Ingrid Rogers, 53.

Happy Birthday: Control will be an issue when it comes to partnerships, loyalty and sorting through your differences. Stick to the rules; take good care of yourself and those you love. Go above and beyond the call of duty to get things done right and on time. Progress will unfold if you are willing to put your all into whatever you pursue. Your numbers are 9, 12, 16, 23, 32, 45, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take care of your responsibilities before someone reminds you to. Dig in and get something done that makes you proud and fulfilled. Don't get angry over something you cannot change. Find a way to work around any obstacle you encounter. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Address issues that can hold you back or cost you emotionally, mentally or physically. Set high standards and work hard, and you'll gain the respect of those you live or work alongside. Add a personal touch to whatever you pursue. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Ponder what's possible. Check out what's required to move forward with something you want to pursue. Show discipline and patience when dealing with people you find challenging. Leave nothing to chance or incomplete. Don't count on anyone but yourself. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Say no to a joint venture. Use your skills and knowledge to your advantage. You can make a

difference if you take a leadership position. Take control, and you'll get the results you desire. Personal improvements will pay off. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Show discipline, stick to plan, and no to temptation, excessiveness and overspending. Stop worrying about what others do, and concentrate on what you are doing. Partnership problems will arise if you let your emotions interfere with how you behave. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Learn from the best, follow through with your plans and don't be afraid to do things your way. Take a unique approach. Opportunities to use your skills diversely and to connect with people who share your sentiments will unfold. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Refuse to let your emotions interfere with your financial matters. Live up to your promises, take care of your personal and professional responsibilities, and aim to stabilize your life. Avoid getting involved in joint ventures or agreeing to share expenses. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Concentrate on what you are trying to achieve. Take the path that leads to personal growth and a change of scenery. Focus on decluttering your life and letting go of situations holding you back or limiting your freedom. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep life simple, be moderate and avoid letting others dictate what you can do. Spend more time at home altering your space to accommodate what you want to do next. Don't trust anyone with personal information, posses-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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sions or passwords. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've got what it takes to excel. Put your energy where it counts, and don't stop until you reach your destination. Look at obscure propositions and adjust them to fit into your lifestyle and dreams. Romance will enhance your life. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Dealing with a friend, colleague or relative will be difficult. Give others the freedom to do as they please, and redirect your energy into something that will benefit you personally. Fitness, health and personal growth are in your best interest. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Invest time and money in your surroundings, skills and plans to get ahead. A change in direction will be rejuvenating and give you something to embrace. Follow your heart, and take the initiative to make your dreams come true. Romance is favored. *****

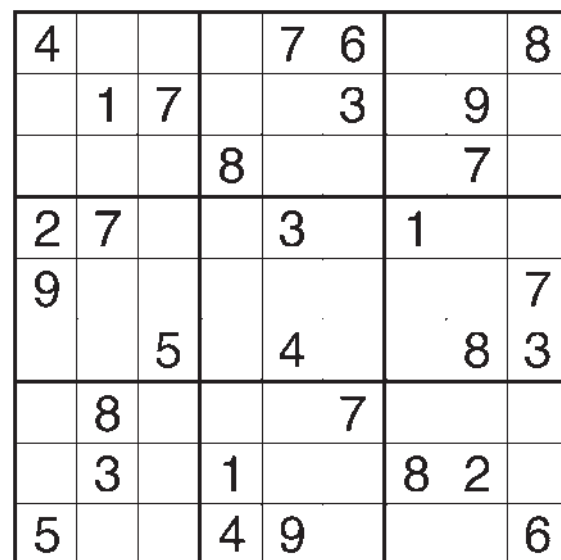
Birthday Baby: You are intense, disciplined and complex. You are intuitive and possessive.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



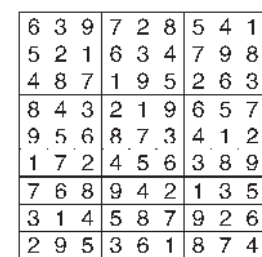
Difficulty Level ★★

4/27

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PORSCHE Solution: 6 letters



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Bose, Boxster, Cars, Cayenne, Cayman, Ceramic, Chrono, Connects, Coupe, Cylinder, Ferdinand, Handling, Hatch, Horse, Hybrid, Iconic, Junior, Macan, Motor, Panamera, Power, Races, Remain, Rims, Safe, Sedan, Shift, Size, Spyder, Standard, Style, Sunroof, Suspension, Tall, Targa, Taycan, Tequipment, Tint, Torque, Traction, Tractors, Turismo, Utility, Vehicle

Yesterday's Answer: Montréal
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 60 order on me at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Kevin Durant scores 33 points in return, Nets beat Suns



NEW YORK (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 33 points in his latest return from injury, Kyrie Irving had 34 and the Brooklyn Nets beat the Phoenix Suns 128-119 on Sunday in a matchup of two of the NBA's top teams.

Durant missed three games after bruising his left thigh early in a loss to Miami last Sunday and has been limited to just 25 games this season. He played 28 minutes off the bench in his return, shooting 12 for 21.

Blake Griffin scored 15 points to help the Eastern Conference leaders improve to 25-7 at home and 20-6 against West teams.

Devin Booker scored 36 points and Deandre Ayton had 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Suns, the No. 2 team in the West who are seeing the best of the East on their current road trip.

The Nets were 2-2 while playing almost entirely without Durant in their previous four, but things change when the four-time scoring champion is on the floor.

Warriors 117, Kings 113

In San Francisco, Stephen Curry scored 37 points and set an NBA record for 3-pointers in a month at 85, leading Golden State past Sacramento Kings 117-113 on Sunday night.

Kelly Oubre Jr.'s jumper with 1:42 left put Golden State ahead 112-111 before Richaun Holmes missed a pair of free throws at the 1:25 mark, then Draymond Green scored moments later.

Curry shot 11 of 21 with seven more 3-pointers after the two-time MVP rolled his right ankle during Friday night in a victory over Denver. His April total topped James Harden's record of 82 in November 2019.

Buddy Hield led the Kings with 25 points.

Wizards 119, Cavaliers 110

In Washington, Bradley Beal scored 33 points and Washington rallied to beat Cleveland for its eighth straight victory.

Down eight early in the fourth quarter at 95-87, Washington tied it at 105 on Beal's 3-pointer with 4:55 remaining. Washington finished on a 14-5 run.

Russell Westbrook had 14 points, 11 assists and five rebounds, ending his triple-double streak at four. He failed to record a triple-double for only the third time in 17 games.

Cavaliers scoring leader Collin Sexton sat out because of a concussion after scoring 28 points Friday night in a loss to Charlotte.

Darius Garland led Cleve-



land with 28 points, and Jarrett Allen had 27 points and 12 rebounds. The Cavaliers have lost five of six.

Pacers 131, Magic 112

In Orlando, Fla., Malcolm

Brogdon scored 24 points and Indiana used a big third quarter to rout short-handed Orlando in a game marred by Magic rookie Devin Cannady's gruesome ankle injury.

Cannady suffered an open

fracture of his right ankle in the first quarter when he landed awkwardly while trying to contest Edmond Sumner's layup. Magic center Mo Bamba was so shaken by the sight of the injury that

he took his jersey off and placed it over Cannady's badly broken and bleeding ankle. The former Princeton star was set for surgery Sunday night.

Playing less than 24 hours

ICU nurse finds inspiration in Curry's motivational verse

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Intensive care unit nurse Shelby Delaney has depended on Stephen Curry's "I Can Do All Things" go-to motivational verse so many times over the years.

Those words from the Bible are written inside the No. 30 jersey of Curry's that she has worn beneath her scrubs day after day to get through each daunting moment of the pandemic. Now, she has another incredible option: Curry took the game-worn uniform off his back Sunday night after scoring 37 points in win over Sacramento, signed it and gave it to this extra-special essential worker. He then scurried down the tunnel shirtless heading to the locker room.

Delaney's husband, Robert Crowley, threw his hands in the air urging fans to cheer.

"So cool. He's an incredible human being," Delaney said afterward. "One of the greatest nights of my life hands down."

Last spring, Curry made a FaceTime video call to Delaney and her colleagues at Oakland's Alta Bates Summit Medical Center after learning she was wearing his uniform.

"That was a great full-circle moment, from being able to talk to her back when the pandemic had just started when things were really ramping up and understanding the sacrifice that her, her colleagues were going through on the front lines," Curry said. "And knowing what the Warriors mean, what I mean, what some motivation and inspiration she's gotten from my story and how she's carried that into her world means so much. To have an opportunity for her to come to a game and meet her in person was pretty awesome."

Delaney had the jersey on again as she and Crowley sat on the floor for Golden State's game with the Kings. A season ticket holder at Chase Center who couldn't attend gifted them the courtside seats.

"I'd always dreamed of talking to him, mostly to thank him, because he really has made such an impact on my life and how I carry myself," said Delaney, a former high school basketball player who later did some coaching.

"It kind of helped me, the whole 'I can do all things,' but also the way he believes that and the way he lives his life is through that, with joy and

love. So he really inspired me. Watching him when I started nursing, in my early 20s, which is a hard time to be alive, when you're in your early 20s it's difficult, but doing it in the ICU, I was always like, 'I can't do this,' so he carried through that and stuff I had going on personally with my family."

Those minutes Curry spent with Delaney, her fellow nurses and the other medical personnel provided a lift they all needed during the most challenging stretch of COVID-19.

"It really uplifted a lot of folks, like all the other nurses, the other staff members, everyone got a lot of joy out of that," Delaney shared of that call with the two-time MVP. "People told me, they actually said that helped boost morale around here a lot, and it got us a lot of donations. And, it got us a lot of donations. It got us a lot of face masks, a lot of surgical masks, it got us a lot of food. And enough food that we were able to share with everyone in the hospital. ... Everyone got to feel loved and feel appreciated because everyone is putting their lives on the line, not just the ICU nurses."

The 28-year-old Delaney moved to the music upon reaching her seat across from the Warriors bench before tipoff.

She and Crowley cheered when Curry was introduced.

"It's really nice for our organization to be able to honor people who have helped so much during the pandemic," coach Steve Kerr said. "I think that's one of the most important roles that our organization plays in the community is to honor those who deserve to be honored, so it's a great way for that to happen, especially because we've got plenty of fans out there who have been on the front lines during the pandemic. So, the more we can honor the better and it's a nice thing to be able to do."

Delaney believes she is a better nurse having gone through the pandemic, supporting her patients with love and care when they have nobody else.

"It's an intense job, but I do love it a lot," she said. "Doing it with love, I think I've become a better nurse over the past year. The family's not there so you've got to give a little extra, you've got to be there in a different way — you've got to be the family and the nurse."

AP
Brooklyn Nets forward Kevin Durant (7) becomes entangled with Phoenix Suns guard Chris Paul during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, April 25, 2021, in New York.

after rallying to beat Detroit, the Pacers had a 41-20 edge in the third quarter to cruise to their third straight victory. Indiana remained a game behind Charlotte for eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

Tyrone Corbin directed the Magic with head coach Steve Clifford out after testing positive for COVID-19. Dwayne Bacon led Orlando with 20 points.

Hornets 125, Celtics 104

In Charlotte, N.C., Devonte Graham had 24 points and nine assists and P.J. Washington added 22 points and 12 rebounds in Charlotte's victory over Boston.

Terry Rozier had 21 points and 11 assists, and Miles Bridges stayed hot with 20 points for the Hornets. They pulled within 1 1/2 games of Boston for the sixth spot in the East.

Kemba Walker and Jaylen Brown each had 20 points for Boston. It has dropped two straight after winning seven of eight.

Hawks 111, Bucks 104

In Atlanta, Lou Williams made four 3-pointers in the final seven minutes, including a jumper that gave Atlanta its first lead of the second half, Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 32 points and the Hawks beat Milwaukee.

Williams had 15 points while leading Atlanta's late long-distance attack. The Hawks overwhelmed the Bucks with eight 3-pointers in the final seven minutes. Atlanta has won four of its last five and 11 of 14.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 31 points with 14 rebounds for the Bucks. Khris Middleton had 23 points, and Jrue Holiday added 19 points with 11 assists.

Grizzlies 120, Trail Blazers 113

In Portland, Ore., Ja Morant had 28 points and Memphis beat Portland for the second time in three days.

Jonas Valanciunas, back after missing three games because of concussion protocol, added 21 points and 10 rebounds.

CJ McCollum had 27 points for the Blazers. They have lost five straight and nine of 11 to fall to seventh in the Western Conference—a half-game ahead of Memphis.

Bumgarner has 7-inning no-hitter, doesn't count in records



ATLANTA (AP)—Madi-

son Bumgarner definitely had no-hit stuff, even if the Major League Baseball record book said he didn't.

Bumgarner threw a seven-inning no-hitter, an achievement that won't officially count but completed a dominant day of Arizona Diamondbacks pitching for a 7-0 win over the Atlanta Braves and a doubleheader sweep Sunday.

Could he have kept the magic going for a nine-inning game?

"I don't know. There's too many variables," Bumgarner said. "If it worked for seven, it's hard to imagine it not working for two more."

After Zac Gallen tossed a one-hitter to win the opener 5-0, Bumgarner did even better.

Bumgarner struck out seven and the only Braves batter who reached base against him came on shortstop Nick Ahmed's throwing error in the second inning.

Bumgarner casually shook hands with catcher Carson Kelly after Marcell Ozuna lined out to end it. Then the rest of the Diamondbacks joined in and the celebration livened up around the mound.

"I like to keep it pretty low-key," the stoic lefty said. "They definitely didn't, which that's fine and I appreciate that, too. It's pretty special for all of us and like I said, I'm just blessed and fortunate to be able to do that and be a part of this."

Bumgarner's gem won't go into the official list of no-hitters. MLB's eight-man committee on statistical accuracy decided in 1991 that a no-hitter was a game of nine or more innings that ended with no hits.

Other pitchers had come close since Commissioner Rob Manfred and MLB switched to seven-inning doubleheaders last year during the coronavirus pandemic.

"It feels good. I just want to say two things before I go celebrate with the guys," Bumgarner said on a TV interview after the game. "I want to thank these shadows in Atlanta. They helped me out a good bit. That was awesome. And I want to thank Rob Manfred for making these seven-inning games."

There have already been two official no-hitters this season.

Joe Musgrove pitched the first no-no in the history of the San Diego Padres when he topped Texas on April 9. Carlos Rodón of the Chicago White Sox no-hit Cleveland on April 14.

Atlanta's only hit during the afternoon was by reigning NL MVP Freddie Freeman, who lined a clean single to right-center field off Gallen with one out in the sixth of the opener.

Bumgarner and Gallen,



however, are officially credited with shutouts. This made Arizona the first team to throw a pair of complete-game shutouts in a doubleheader since Boston's Reggie Cleveland and Don Aase at Toronto on Sept. 5, 1977.

Bumgarner (2-2) struck out Ronald Acuña Jr. to begin the seventh, then retired Freeman on a popup that Ahmed went a long way to get. Ozuna lined an easy fly to right fielder Josh Rojas for the final out.

The 2014 World Series MVP with San Francisco, the 31-year-old Bumgarner retired the last 17 batters after Ozzie Albies reached on Ahmed's error leading off the second.

Orioles 8, Athletics 1

In Baltimore, Oakland's 13-game winning streak ended as Austin Hays hit his first two home runs.

The A's, who opened the season with six straight losses, put together their third-longest winning string since moving to Oakland in 1968.

Oakland won 14 in a row in 1988 and a then-American League record of 20 consecutive wins in 2002. Cleveland broke that mark with 22 straight in 2017. The Athletics' string had been the longest in the majors since that run by the Indians.

John Means (2-0) allowed one run and two hits in 6 1/3 innings, lowering his ERA to 1.50.

Jesús Luzardo (1-2) allowed three runs and seven hits with eight strikeouts and two walks over a season-high 6 2/3 innings.

Rockies 12, Phillies 2

In Denver, Trevor Story hit a

grand slam to cap a seven-run fourth inning, letting loose a shout to his dugout and a big bat flip, and Colorado overcame two solo home runs by Bryce Harper.

Story hit his third career slam and second home run on a 2-2 curveball from Dave Hale, sending the ball 433 feet into the left-field seats. Story did not hit his first home run of the season until Friday, in his 68th at-bat.

Harper hit a 430-foot drive to right-center in the first and a 468-foot drive that landed on the second deck above Philadelphia's bullpen beyond right-center in the third, both off Sonny Gray (3-1), who gave up two runs and four hits in six innings.

Colorado had a season-high 16 hits, four by C.J. Cron. Chase Anderson (0-3) gave up six runs and six hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Indians 7, Yankees 3

In Cleveland, Franmil Reyes hit a three-run homer, tripled and stole his first career base, helping Cleveland avoid a four-game series sweep.

Reyes homered in the fourth off Jameson Taillon (0-2) as Cleveland overcame a 3-0 deficit and took a 4-3 lead. Reyes, a burly 6-foot-5, 265-pounder, led off the sixth with his second big league triple and scored on Jordan Luplow's double against Nick Nelson for a 6-3 advantage.

Rookie Sam Hentges (1-0), making his second big league appearances following his debut Tuesday, allowed two hits in 1 2/3 innings of relief. Emmanuel Clase worked a perfect ninth as the Indians stopped their four-game losing streak.

Blue Jays 1, Rays 0

St. Petersburg, Fla., Toronto starter Hyun Jin Ryu was forced to leave early with a right glute strain after giving up three hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Five relievers completed a five-hitter. Tim Mayza (1-0) followed Ryu and got the final out in the fourth. He gave up two singles in the fifth—the last hits for the Rays—and was replaced by Tyler Chatwood, who worked out of the jam. Rafael Dolis got four outs for his second save.

Marcus Semien singled off Josh Fleming (1-2) to begin the fifth for Toronto's first hit and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. followed with a bunt single. Semien scored on Santiago Espinal's single.

Royals 4, Tigers 0

In Detroit, Danny Duffy (3-1) allowed four hits in five innings and struck out eight. He's allowed one earned run in 23 innings so far this season.

Hunter Dozier hit a solo homer for the AL Central-leading Royals, who have won four straight.

Detroit starter Michael Fulmer yielded one hit in three scoreless innings, but reliever Tarik Skubal (0-3) gave up runs in the fifth and sixth. The Tigers have lost nine of 10.

Red Sox 5, Mariners 3

In Boston, J.D. Martinez doubled twice to raise his season total to 10, and Eduardo Rodríguez (4-0) gave up eight hits and struck out eight in six innings in Boston's major league-leading 11th comeback victory of the season.

Seattle starter Nick Margevicius (0-2) got just one out while allowing four runs in the first

inning. He faced seven batters and walked four of them -- two with the bases loaded—while also allowing two hits.

Matt Barnes pitched a perfect ninth for his fourth save.

Mets 4, Nationals 0

In New York, Taijuan Walker (1-1) pitched three-hit ball over seven innings in his first win for the Mets, and J.D. Davis hit a two-run homer in the first off a faltering Patrick Corbin.

Corbin (0-3) lost his 10th straight decision dating to last August, allowing four runs, seven hits and three walks in four-plus innings.

Davis had three hits, raising his average to .414.

White Sox 8, Rangers 4

In Chicago, Michael Kopech (2-0) struck out a career-high 10 while allowing one run and four hits in five innings. José Abreu homered and drove in three runs and Chicago won its season-high fourth straight.

Abreu hit a two-run homer, the fifth of the year for the reigning AL MVP, in the first off Kohei Aihara (2-2).

Texas has lost four of five.

Pirates 6, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Gregory Polanco homered and had three hits as Pittsburgh completed a 6-3 trip.

Clay Holmes (1-0) pitched 1 1/3 hitless innings for his first win since July 2, 2019, against the Chicago Cubs. Sam Howard got two outs, Chris Stratton allowed Nelson Cruz's seventh homer in a three-hit eighth and David Bednar struck out two in a perfect ninth.

Minnesota has lost 11 of 13

Oakland Athletics' Mark Canha reacts after striking out against the Baltimore Orioles in the eighth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, April 25, 2021, in Baltimore.

and its seven wins are tied with Detroit for fewest in the American League. Matt Shoemaker (1-2) allowed two runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Cardinals 5, Reds 2

In St. Louis, Tyler O'Neill homered twice and Jack Flaherty (4-0) allowed one run and three hits in seven innings. Cincinnati has lost seven straight, its longest skid since an eight-game slide from March 31-April 7, 2019.

O'Neill, who came off the injured list on Friday after missing 13 games with a right groin strain, hit solo home runs in the second and fifth innings.

Alex Reyes earned his fifth save when Tucker Barnhart grounded out with the bases loaded.

Luis Castillo (1-2) gave up four runs and six hits in five innings.

Brewers 6, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Brandon Woodruff (2-0) allowed two hits in six innings and struck out eight for his first win in 11 career appearances against Chicago.

Luis Urias hit a two-run single during a five-run ninth, helping the Brewers close out a 5-1 trip.

Jake Arrieta gave up one run two hits in six innings on a 44-degree, windy day at Wrigley Field.

Angels 4, Astros 2

In Houston, Shohei Ohtani hit a tiebreaking solo home run in the eighth inning off Luis Garcia (0-2) as the Angels stopped a four-game losing streak.

It was the second consecutive game with a homer for the two-way star, who is tied for the MLB lead with seven home runs and who is scheduled to pitch on Monday.

Yuli Gurriel hit a tying, two-run homer in the seventh.

Chris Rodriguez (1-0) struck out two in a scoreless seventh, and Raisel Iglesias allowed one hit in a scoreless ninth for his third save.

Giants 4, Marlins 3

In San Francisco, Logan Webb (1-1) pitched three-hit ball over seven scoreless innings, matched his career-best with eight strikeouts and had a two-run triple off Paul Campbell (0-1) for his first career extra-base hit.

Tyler Rogers got his second save.

Jesús Aguilar homered for the third consecutive day for Miami.

MARPAC hydrating SCC Scholarship Golf Tournament

Cooling the heat at the SCC Two-Man Scramble Scholarship Golf Tournament hole No. 9 is Marianas Pacific Distributors. MARPAC Inc. has signed on as an "Over-Easy" Sponsor of the annual Saipan Chamber of Commerce fundraising event on Saturday, May 22, 2021, at the Saipan Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

Always bringing the excitement for players, and no stranger to the SCC annual tournament and all events, players can look forward to a refreshing day on the course with beverages generously donated by MARPAC.

"We're just glad to be able to sponsor this event, and we're proud to support the Chamber and their endeavors—especially the work they



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, MARPAC Inc. Beverage Sales manager James Lee, SCC Golf Tournament chair Shayne Villanueva, SCC executive director Maxine Laszlo, MARPAC Inc. resident manager Guy Pudney, and MARPAC Inc. consumer manager Tom Basa.

"Guy Pudney, James Lee, and the entire MARPAC Inc. team create a special experience for our golfers, all in support of our scholars. We're grateful MARPAC Inc. continues to support SCC events, despite our community challenges, all through their generosity and goodwill."

are doing with the scholarship program. We are looking forward to good weather and a good tournament, and a good turnout. In the end, we all win toward one common goal," said MARPAC resident manager Guy Pudney.

"Time and time again, MARPAC Inc. continues to show up and show out for our scholarship golf tournament," shared 2021 Golf Tournament chair Shayne Villanueva.



The tournament is slated for Saturday, May 22, 2021. SCC urges players to sign up now, save money and time; early-bird registration discount ends May 7. Registration forms for players are available for download at www.saipanchamber.com/ events or stop by the SCC Office. Contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at 234-7150 or coordinator@saipanchamber.com for more information. (PR)

EDWIN

From Page 20

a local construction company, said although it's his first win in the Saipan Unity Lion's Club's annual bike race, he landed the title in the bike event a week prior hosted by the Emon Lodge 179 (2021 Padyakan Sa Saipan).

Angeles said he is proud of his accomplishments because he has only been on Saipan for less than a year and had no prior competitive experience.

"I just came from the Philippines last year in September. This is my second time to be involved in a bike race like this, the first was last Sunday, Padyakan. I also won the championship and this is my second win. I feel great, and I executed the race very well, and as I planned. I have biking experience from the Philippines. I used to bike with my friends but

only when I came to Saipan did I actually get into competitive racing," he said.

The course Angeles raced started at Banzai Cliff with the first turning point at Mobil Tanapag before proceeding to Suicide Cliff and then back to Banzai Cliff.

In terms of preparation for the race, Angeles said he practiced three times a week and went hard on the carbohydrates.

"Usually I do three times a week then rest, and eat more carbo. This event I only practiced one week because I also trained for the Padyakan. I couldn't train as often as I would like since I work," he said.

In an interview with Saipan Unity Lions Club president Alicia Barbo, she said the event is an annual fundraising event and proceeds raised will go to helping those in need within the community.

NMIVA

From Page 20

official, etc.," she told *Saipan Tribune* in an email.

The beach volleyball and grass volleyball leagues in February and April, respectively, signalled NMIVA's latest attempts at reviving the sport after a year lost to COVID-19.

"We are starting to host island tournaments, hopefully starting with a 4x4 co-ed grass tournament in May. The idea is just to get athletes

out there again and playing. We're hoping to have various tournaments for the rest of the year, shooting for at least one NMIVA-affiliated tournament per month. We hope to get out to Tinian and Rota to host some tournaments there as well if we can find some co-sponsors on those islands," said Quan.

The NMIVA president also took the opportunity to extend her and the rest of the NMIVA board's gratitude to everyone who helped grow the sport in the past and those who will

continue to support volleyball moving forward.

"Thank you all for the years spent playing or coaching volleyball, whether it was in just pick up games on the beach or backyard grass play at family functions, or organized indoor tournaments. It is because of you that volleyball has not died out in our community. The current NMIVA board recognizes your efforts and we hope to provide the resources and support necessary so that volleyball, both indoor and beach, can be a

thriving sport in the CNMI once again."

The Mount Carmel School Knights won the 2021 Inter-scholastic 4v4 Beach Volleyball League at the expense of Grace Christian Academy Eagles last February at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan beach, while Tanapag Middle School and the Hopwood Middle School won the boys and girls divisions, respectively, of the 2021 Middle School Grass Volleyball League earlier this month at the CPA Airport Field.

TORCH

From Page 20

Shimizu who came in two seconds later at 01:02.

Ray Qi continued ACS' win streak in the boys 18U division of the 1,500m after completing the course in 05:00 followed by SIS' Kuu Nishimura who came in 11 seconds behind his competitor at 05:11. ACS managed to land two seats in the Top 3 of the race with Allen Luo who finished at 05:19.

ACS still held some status in the 18U boys javelin with David Zheng throwing a distance of 31.79m, falling short of just a little over 2m behind first placer Francisco Kumuc from Kagman High School. McDonald completed the Top 3 at 29.33m.

In similar fashion, Kumuch topped the boys 18U shotput event after a throw of 11.97m, while ACS' Bobby Bao came in second at 9.53m followed by fellow Torch Bearers Steven Wang at 8.96m.

Also topping their events was Joseph Pangelinan of Grace Christian Academy who paced the 100m race for the boys 14U division with a time of 13.43. Pangelinan beat runner-up and schoolmate Theodore Rodgers by just 23 seconds with Rodg-

ers completing the event in 13:66. Taking third place for the event was DanDan Middle School's Arvin Hornejas who submitted a time of 13:77.

In the 400m event, Hornejas prevailed in the 14U division after completing the distance in 1:08 followed closely by Stanley Iakopo of Tanapag Middle School with a time of 1:12. Vying for the Top 3 spot was Saipan Community School's Elijah Ye and GCA's Miles Linden who finished at 1:13.

ACS' Peter Peng came out victorious in the 1,500m event in the 14U division after coming in at 6:11, followed by TMS' Nolan Ngewakll who came in at 6:18. Ye of SCS completed the Top 3 with a time of 6:19.

Keahie Omapas of TMS topped foes in the 14U division of the javelin event with a time of 29:15, lasting a whole 6 seconds longer than runner-up Luke Lizama of ChaCha Oceanview Middle school who recorded a time of 23:02. DMS' Ethan Sablan secured a Top 3 spot with a time of 21.66.

Later in the 14U shotput event, GCA's Pangelinan prevailed again throwing a distance of 9:56, followed by Casey Chambers at 9:04m. Mount Carmel School's Dylan Santos came in third at 8:99m. Meanwhile, in the girls' di-

vision, Savita Sikkell of SIS started off the 100m qualifier for the girls 14U division strong with a time of 15:05, besting GCA's Ella Hall who came in second with a time of 15:25. MCS' Mia Ysabella Abuan came in moments after Hall with a time of 15:86.

In the 18U division of the 100m qualifier, Saipan Southern High School's Casey Cruz came out on top with a time of 13:64, defeating runner-up Filomenaleonisa Iakopo from KHS who submitted a time of 13:68. Tailing Iakopo by nearly a minute was Erin Frink of MCS.

In the girls 14U 400m qualifier, Kaithlyn Chavez came out on top with an impressive time of 1:11, upsetting SIS' Sikkell who recorded a time of 1:12 in the first heat. Fiona Regan of GCA finished just four seconds short of Sikkell with a time of 1:16 to put her in the Top 3.

During the 18U division of the same qualifier, Tiana Cabrera of SIS came up victorious after submitting a time of 1:13:96 in the third heat. ACS' Elim Huang fell short by a hair, completing the event in 1:18:97 in the second heat. Fellow Torch Bearer Ivy Yu completed the event in 1:22:86 to place third.

Chavez continued her streak in the 14U 1,500m qualifier with a time of 6:08, followed

by GCA's Regan who came in at 6:27. Sikkell gained the Top 3 spot after recording a time of 6:29.

Meanwhile in the 18U division, Cabrera continued to prevail, placing first with a time of 5:57, followed by Eunice Xu of ACS at 6:18. ACS' Pang rounded the Top 3 with a time of 6:27.

SIS' Mimi Culp dominated the 14U javelin with a throw of 12:32m, followed by schoolmate Euky Claveria at 12:08. DMS' Ha'ani Passi made Top 3 at 12:02m.

Lady Torch Bearer Sally Wu conquered the 18U javelin event with a time of 20:82, followed by MHS' Angellyn Roligat with 20:39. Maria Rasa from KHS gained access to the Top 3 with her time of 19:13.

Patty Mendiola of DMS landed No. 1 in the 14U shotput qualifier with a time of 7:35, prevailing over Ruth Zhang of ACS who recorded a time of 6:20. SIS' Wang Hoo managed to snag third place with her time of 6:14.

Lady Dolphin Kina Rangamar topped the 18U division shotput with a time of 7:18, followed closely by Maria Shim from SIS who recorded a time of 6:95 and KHS' Kata Rayphand who landed third place with her time of 6:68.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	41	20	.672	—
Philadelphia	39	21	.650	1½
Milwaukee	37	23	.617	3½
New York	34	27	.557	7
Atlanta	34	27	.557	7
Boston	32	29	.525	9
Miami	32	29	.525	9
Charlotte	30	30	.500	10½
Indiana	29	31	.483	11½
Washington	27	33	.450	13½
Chicago	25	35	.417	15½
Toronto	25	35	.417	15½
Cleveland	21	39	.350	19½
Orlando	18	42	.300	22½
Detroit	18	43	.295	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Utah	44	16	.733	—
Phoenix	42	18	.700	2
L.A. Clippers	43	19	.694	2
Denver	39	21	.650	5
L.A. Lakers	35	25	.583	9
Dallas	33	26	.559	10½
Portland	32	28	.533	12
Memphis	31	28	.525	12½
Golden State	31	30	.508	13½
San Antonio	30	29	.508	13½
New Orleans	26	34	.433	18
Sacramento	24	36	.400	20
Oklahoma City	20	40	.333	24
Minnesota	17	44	.279	27½
Houston	15	46	.246	29½

x-clinched playoff spot

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Curry, GS	52	532	290	1620	31.2
Beal, WAS	50	546	350	1554	31.1
Doncic, DAL	54	544	288	1537	28.5
Lillard, POR	54	477	370	1541	28.5

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Capela, ATL	52	253	511	764	14.7
Gobert, UTA	59	202	602	804	13.6
Valanciunas, MEM	50	209	419	628	12.6
Sabonis, IND	53	134	481	615	11.6

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Gobert, UTA	324	483	.671
Holmes, SAC	297	463	.641
Allen, CLE	236	371	.636
Poeltl, SA	221	352	.628

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Westbrook, WAS	52	568	10.9
Harden, BKN	42	457	10.9
Young, ATL	54	516	9.6
Doncic, DAL	54	473	8.8

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



**Kevin Durant
scores 33 points
in return, Nets
beat Suns**

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**MARPAC
hydrating SCC
Scholarship Golf
Tournament**

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20 TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Torch Bearers start off strong

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Agape Christian School Torch Bearers got off to a strong start, topping three of five qualifiers in the boys 18U division during the first set of qualifying events for the middle school and high school levels of the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship at the Oleai Track and Field last Saturday.

The Torch Bearers definitely showed the way in last Saturday's set of events with Eason Tang leading the way in the 100m race of the boys 18U division. Tang came in at 12:18 to put him at first place in the

first heat, followed by fellow Torch Bearers Bill Li who finished in 12:21, topping the second heat. Completing the Top 3 was Saipan International School's Charles



McDonald who came in at 12:51, placing first in the fourth heat.

Later in the 400m race of the boys 18U division, Tang prevailed again, running nearly half of the track in under a minute, 57:90. ACS' Peter Hu tailed his schoolmate by just a few seconds, submitting a time of 01:00 to put him at first in the third heat. Rounding up the Top 3 in the division was Marianas High School's Cody

See TORCH on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Agape Christian School Torch Bearers got off to a strong start, topping three of five qualifiers in the boys 18U division during the first set of qualifying events for the middle school and high school levels of the 2021 Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championship at the Oleai Track and Field last Saturday.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Edwin Angeles came out victorious during his first race for the Saipan Unity Lions Club's 5th Annual Bike Race held last Sunday at Banzai Cliff.

Edwin Angeles tops mountain bike race

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Edwin Angeles came out victorious during his first race in the Saipan Unity Lions Club's 5th Annual Bike Race held last Sunday at Banzai Cliff.

Angeles, 49, topped the short course of the men's mountain bike division last Sunday after completing the 20-mile course in just 35 minutes, unofficially.



Following Angeles was Angel De Guzman and Larry Malis but no times were recorded.

When asked what his secret was, Angeles simply said "I tried my best and I worked hard." Angeles added that he exerted all his effort and executed his game plan to the best of his abilities.

Angeles, who works for

See EDWIN on Page 19



Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association president Somia Quan emphasized the importance of recently concluded leagues like the 2021 Interscholastic 4v4 Beach Volleyball League and the 2021 Middle School Grass Volleyball League in the development of the sport in the Commonwealth.

"Grass roots programs are significant because it is often the first exposure of volleyball that young individuals will have if there isn't someone in their household that is a volleyball lover. It's usually at the foundational level and primarily recreational, the introduction of the sport for a youngster. Also, these grassroots

NMIVA stresses importance of grassroots development

programs tend to get people who are not normally a volley-

ball player somehow involved, whether it's running the tour-

nament boards or becoming an

See NMIVA on Page 19



MARK RABAGO

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association president Somia Quan, standing left, poses with Hopwood Middle School players and coaches after the Lady Hilitais won the 2021 Middle School Grass Volleyball League earlier this month at the CPA Airport Field.